

India plans new Gulf peace bid

KUWAIT (R) — A senior Indian official said on Saturday new steps would be taken within the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), of which India is currently chairman, to study prospects for a diplomatic end to the Gulf war. The secretary of India's External Affairs Ministry, N.P. Jain, said the NAM's coordinating bureau would explore new avenues for peace between Iran and Iraq at a meeting in New Delhi from April 16-19. "India has been profoundly concerned about the recent escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, and called for an immediate end of hostilities and a start of peace talks," the Kuwait News Agency quoted him as saying during a one-day visit. "India, as current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, has been in touch with Tehran and Baghdad and other Gulf capitals to discuss whatever necessary measures NAM could undertake to ease tension in the Gulf," he said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Jordanian-owned trucks benefitted

AMMAN (Petra) — Lorries owned by Jordanians and found with goods at Jordanian free zones on April 1, 1986, and lorries with non-Jordanian licence plates and owned by Jordanians before April 1, 1986, are to be allowed to transport goods from and to Aqaba, according to a defence order issued by the prime minister's office on Saturday. The order said that these lorries can operate according to the new arrangement provided they are supplied with a temporary entry licence plates against JD 500 for every six months, in addition to paying licence fees for operating in Jordan for the same period. The order stipulated that all vehicles benefiting from this order should pass traffic department tests. Transport Minister Farhi Obaid said this order offers further facilities to Jordanian-owned lorries from Arab countries to operate in Jordan.

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Aquino thanks King Hussein

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has received a message from Mrs. Corazon Aquino, president of the Philippines, thanking the King for his message of congratulations on the occasion of her election as president. In her message, President Aquino thanked the King for his good wishes and pledge of support and cooperation. She added that the King's message will certainly inspire her to utilise maximum efforts in rebuilding her nation and in following a path of progress and prosperity under the banner of justice and freedom.

Polyakov ends 3-day visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Middle East Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, left Amman after a three-day visit during which he met His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri. Mr. Polyakov's destination was expected to be Egypt, on the third leg of his current Middle East trip. He had visited Syria before coming to Jordan.

Zhivkov reelected party leader

SOFIA (R) — Veteran Todor Zhivkov, 74, was reelected Bulgarian Communist Party leader on Saturday, a post he has held for 32 years, the official BTA news agency announced. Mr. Zhivkov, also Bulgaria's president since 1971, was elected unanimously on the final day of the party's 13th congress. The congress also reelected the party's ruling politburo and secretariat without personnel changes.

15 killed in blast at U.S. base in Seoul

SEOUL (AP) — An explosion ripped through a U.S. air force fuel tank at Osan airport on Saturday, killing 15 people and wounding 14. An air force announcement in Washington said the death toll was 15, 14 South Koreans and one U.S. citizen, with 13 Koreans injured. Billy Fullerton, spokesman for the public affairs office of U.S. military headquarters in Seoul, said an investigation was under way to determine the cause of the blast, but that there was no indication sabotage or terrorism were involved.

Bomb hoax on Air India plane

LONDON (AP) — An Air India Jumbo jet en route to India with 305 people aboard returned to Heathrow airport Saturday after the airline received a call saying there was a bomb on board, airport officials said. Fifty-three passengers were slightly injured in an emergency evacuation. After a 2½ hour search of the plane, Scotland Yard officials said, "It was clearly a hoax because nothing was found." Scotland Yard said 53 passengers, including two babies and three children, suffered cuts, bruises and friction burns in the evacuation.

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Beirut battles spread to Bourj Al Barajneh

Dynamite and tankfire pound refugee camps

BEIRUT (AP) — Dynamite-hurling Lebanese militiamen with Soviet-made T-55 tanks on Saturday pounded Palestinian fighters defending for the ninth day two besieged refugee camps as the fighting spread to a third shantytown.

Militiamen of the Shi'ite Amal movement used 120-mm mortars and 106-mm guns to batter the Sabra and Shatilla camps in south Beirut throughout the morning, police reported.

Militia sources reported six people were killed and 25 wounded in clashes through the night and early morning.

That raised the casualty toll since the camps were started March 28 to at least 46 killed and 175 wounded.

But the most dramatic development came during the night, when T-55 tanks manned by Amal crews shelled the sprawling Bourj Al Barajneh camp south of Sabra and Shatilla.

It was the first time since the fighting began that serious clashes erupted in Bourj Al Barajneh, biggest of Beirut's refugee camps.

Amal militiamen ringing Sabra and Shatilla, devastated in bloody fighting between the two factions last year, told reporters they are pressing their commanders to launch an all-out assault on the camps.

"We're waiting for the master

(Amal leader Nabih Berri) to give us the green light for a showdown," one bearded gunman said as 106-mm and machine gun fire boomed around him.

Nearby, around the Amal-held Arifa Palestinian school on the fringe of Shatilla, militiamen with black scarves lobbed sticks of TNT with splutter fuses towards Palestinian strongpoints.

They threw the sticks at low cement-block houses where marksmen were sniping at them. The dynamite went off with thunderous explosions, but did not appear to be hitting anyone.

Amal militiamen in combat fatigues appeared to be doing most of the firing with Soviet and U.S. automatic weapons, rocket-propelled grenades and 106-mm recoilless rifles into the bullet-chipped camps.

The defenders, apparently conserving ammunition, fired only when they spotted Amal gunmen flitting from one sandbagged position to another.

The fighting eased in the afternoon. But Amal militiamen said they have moved up Syrian-

supplied T-55 battle tanks around the bomb-shattered city sports stadium on the outskirts of Shatilla on the main highway to Beirut airport.

Reporters were not allowed into the area to confirm the report. Amal officials denied charges by the Syrian-backed Palestinian National Salvation Front (PNSF) that Amal started the fighting.

"We are with our Palestinian brothers, but warn against an extension of the clashes outside the camps. This will lead to an all-out flare-up throughout the country," Mr. Berri, who is also Lebanon's justice minister, was overwhelmingly reelected president of the Amal movement at its sixth congress Friday, clearly crushing his rivals for leadership of Lebanon's most powerful Shi'ite faction.

It was not clear whether the Amal leadership will now seek to halt the fighting. A half-dozen ceasefires have been shattered in recent days and PNSF representatives have stormed out of peace talks.

Amal launched an offensive against the camps last May. It claimed it was seeking to stop the Palestine Liberation Organisation rebuilding the powerbase it lost in Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Some 650 people were killed and 2,500 wounded in bloody fighting around the camps between Amal and the Palestinians last summer and fall.

Bomb explodes at W. Berlin disco; 2 killed, 155 injured

BERLIN (Agencies) — A bomb exploded early Saturday in a crowded Berlin nightclub frequented by American soldiers, killing at least two people including a U.S. serviceman and injuring more than 155 others, police said.

"This was without a doubt an attack against the (U.S.) allies, and is most probably connected with international terrorists," West German Interior Ministry spokesman Hans-Guenther Kowalski told the Associated Press.

An anonymous caller told a West German news agency in Berlin that a group calling itself the "Anti-American Arab Liberation Front" had planted the bomb.

West Berlin officials said they had not previously heard of the group. In London, an anonymous caller claimed the attack was carried out by the Holger Meins Commando. The West German extremist group, which also claimed responsibility for the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, is linked to West Germany's Red Army Faction, one of Western Europe's most notorious

leftist groups. Police said the 1:50 a.m. blast at the La Belle discotheque killed a man and a woman. At least 30 of the injured were in serious condition, police said.

At the time of the blast, police said about 500 people were crowded into the discotheque, a popular spot with U.S. soldiers.

The U.S. army said in a statement one of those killed "is believed to be an American, but that is not yet positively determined." The statement said 44 Americans were among the injured.

West German police said those killed in the blast were an American soldier and a young West German woman.

The caller in London, speaking English with a Northern European accent, refused to give any reason for the attack.

"The Holger Meins Commando carried out the bombing in West Berlin. That is all I have to say," the caller said, before hanging up. The commando group also claimed responsibility for the Feb. 28 assassination of Mr. Palme on a

Stockholm street in a similar call to an international news agency in London.

The Holger Meins Commando, named after a Red Army Faction guerrilla who died on a hunger strike in a West German jail, had previously claimed it carried out an attack on the West German embassy in Stockholm in 1975.

Two diplomats and one guerrilla were killed in the siege. West Berlin police clamped strict controls on border points, stopping cars leaving the city for surrounding East Berlin and East German territory. U.S. security forces were also involved in the operation.

A disco-jockey working at La Belle told a radio station he witnessed a scene of horror after the blast with human limbs lying among the wreckage.

He said that after the blast he found himself in the cellar of the six-story building. Young people, many nursing wounds, rushed through the blown-out front of the discotheque on to the street before a fire broke out.

Austrians endorse Waldheim candidacy

VIENNA (R) — Six thousand Austrians on Saturday endorsed Kurt Waldheim as their candidate for the country's presidency and denounced allegations that the former U.N. chief has a criminal Nazi past.

A congress of Waldheim supporters, held in the industrial city of Linz, adopted unanimously a resolution condemning what it described as attempts to undermine Dr. Waldheim through "insinuations and smears."

The former U.N. secretary-general told the congress he had shown that the accusations against him had no foundation.

Dr. Waldheim's election campaign in the Linz area has been buoyed by mounting voter resentment over persistent charges by the World Jewish Congress (WJC) in New York that he was involved in World War II war crimes by Hitler's army.

War file on Waldheim to be scrutinized, page 8

Marcos urges support for Aquino, surprises Manila

MANILA (Agencies) — Ousted Philippine leader Ferdinand Marcos on Saturday surprised the country's new government by calling on the military to support President Corason Aquino.

In what appeared to be the start of a media blitz, Marcos told a private Manila radio station in an interview from Hawaii that he was no longer interested in power.

"All I want is to help Madame Aquino preserve the country from leftist insurgents," he said, adding that she deserved the support of the military in fighting Communist rebels.

Referring to his successor repeatedly as "Madame Cory Aquino," the former Philippine president said, "I am ready to help even my opponent as long as she does not allow the leftist terrorist subversives to take over our country."

"Don't worry about my plans," said the man who ruled the Philippines for 20 years. "I have no intention of starting a civil war." Marcos, in a nearly hour-long interview from Honolulu with radio commentator Rafael Yabut over Station Dybb, admitted having large property holdings in the Philippines but denied stealing

any government money. "Whatever my sins are against our country and our God, stealing money from our government and our people is not among them," said Marcos, speaking mostly in Tagalog.

The new government accuses him of stealing and shaming away between \$5 billion and \$10 billion.

Former first lady Imelda Marcos, also interviewed during the broadcast, sobbed repeatedly as she denied that she was extravagant and said the Marcoses would not cause trouble for their country.

Presidential spokesman Rene Saguisag, apparently surprised by the tone of Marcos' remarks, told Reuters: "To the extent Marcos sounded conciliatory, it is a welcome development... we don't really know what's in his mind."

Saguisag said however he was disturbed by Marcos' comment that he would expose his former cabinet colleagues unless they stopped "spreading lies" about him.

Aquino still people's choice, but army is uneasy, page 4



Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and his Canadian counterpart Joe Clark exchange documents of a Jordanian-Canadian trade and economic protocol they signed on Saturday (Another photo on page 3)

Kana'an pledges all efforts to rescue JDEC from Israeli hands

By Rabab Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan rejects all Israeli plans to impose autonomy on the occupied Arab territories and will resist all circumstances under which Israel could move to impose its hegemony and perpetuate its occupation of Arab land, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kana'an said Saturday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, Dr. Kana'an said Israel created circumstances to seize the Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDEC) by forcing a postponement of Jordan's assistance to that company.

The financial difficulties from which the JDEC has been suffering resulted from the unjust tariffs imposed by the Israeli authorities on it, the minister said.

He said the difference in rates did not leave room for making any revenues to cover expenses for operation and running the company's management. This caused Jordan to delay the payment of financial assistance to the com-

pany until the imbalance has been removed, the minister added. He said that Jordan was also not sure about the Israeli authorities' intention with regard to the fate of the company's concession rights.

Jordan, he said, will continue to extend support for the JDEC and will continue to find means to support it whether the Kingdom received Arab financial help or not.

The first Arab financial aid to the JDEC was extended in 1979 and the last sum the company received was in September 1985 in accordance with a decision by the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people, the minister said.

Since 1982 Arab countries failed to honour their financial commitment to the joint committee except for Saudi Arabia which also delayed the payment of two instalments totalling \$19 million, the minister said.

The Israeli authorities took measures to seize the JDEC in June 1967 and these measures included, among other things, a reduction of electricity fees causing

the company to suffer losses and later forcing the Arab company to purchase electric power from an Israeli company at high rates, the minister added.

The Arab company, he said, suffered losses at the rate of JD 200,000 a month and could not cover its administrative expenses, he said.

The Israelis have now entrusted an Israeli expert to analyse the company's situation and submit a report on the company's financial position and no final results have been out yet.

The JDEC has not been able to pay for the electricity it bought from the Israeli company and debt of JD 3.5 million has accumulated, in addition to the monthly deficit of JD 200,000 a month, Dr. Kana'an said.

He said the Israeli company has requested sequestration officers to take charge of the company until the debts are paid and the JDEC has requested that its own lawyer to raise a case in court to lift the sequestration order. The

(Continued on page 4)

Kuwait renews call for Mideast conference

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait on Saturday renewed its call for an international conference to resolve the Middle East crisis, to be attended by all concerned parties including the PLO.

The call was made in talks between Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah and visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Richard Murphy.

Mr. Murphy arrived Friday night from Qatar on the last stop of a tour of Gulf states not included in the itinerary of Vice-President George Bush, who arrived in Saudi Arabia on Saturday at the start of a four-nation tour of the region. (See page 2).

Mr. Murphy gave Sheikh Sabah a message from President Reagan for the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, dealing with U.S. policy on a number of issues concerning the two countries, the director of Sheikh Sabah's office, Abdullah Abdul Razak, said.

"Sheikh Sabah confirmed to Mr. Murphy the need to hold an international conference, attended by concerned parties including the PLO, to discuss the Middle East crisis," he said after Mr. Murphy's talks with the foreign minister.

The U.S. has refused to concede any role for the PLO in the peace process.

Mr. Murphy later told reporters the U.S. was ready to help the Gulf states if they sought it in the event of aggression.

Mr. Murphy told reporters the possibility of a spillover of the 5½ year-old Iran-Iraq war, in which Iranian troops are now entrenched for the first time within sight of Kuwait, was of "major concern" to Washington.

Greece denies Arab arrested in connection with TWA blast

Lebanese woman says she had no role in bombing

ATHENS (Agencies) — Greek police on Saturday denied reports that an Arab was arrested on Friday in connection with the bombing of a Trans World Airlines (TWA) jetliner on a Rome-Athens flight that left four Americans killed while in Beirut a Lebanese woman suspected of involvement in the blast denied any role in the incident.

"Nobody's been arrested, and we're not holding anyone for questioning," Atha Assios Zafetris, security police chief for the Athens area, told the Associated Press.

According to the reports, an Arab identified as Mohammad Yousef was picked up Friday in the transit lounge at the international terminal and questioned by police.

A TWA spokesman said two explosives experts from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) were still examining the Boeing 727.

Police sources quoted by Reuters said police still want to interview Lebanese woman May Elias Mansour about the explosion although she has denied involvement.

"We are mystified at Mansour's movements," a police source said, referring to her reported travel schedule from Beirut to Cairo, Cairo to Athens and then Athens to Beirut by connecting flights. Ms. Mansour could travel to Athens to give her story if she was innocent, the source said.

The explosion ripped a hole in the starboard cabin wall of the TWA Boeing 727 as it approached Athens airport. Four people, including a baby girl, were sucked out of the cabin and fell to their deaths from 5,000 metres.

The police sources spoke after a statement had been issued in Lebanon on behalf of Ms. Mansour, who had boarded the plane in Cairo, denying she had been involved. Later, 30-year-old Mansour, who is handicapped, told a

news conference in Tripoli, Lebanon, that she had nothing to do with the explosion.

Greek police meanwhile have interrogated several Arabs living in Athens but so far made no arrests, the sources said.

The questioning apparently coincided with a statement on Friday by Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias that Greek authorities would take the lead in investigating the blast.

Ms. Mansour, in an interview with the AP in the northern Lebanese town of Tripoli on Saturday, categorically denied she was involved in "such a terrorist crime."

"I'm a woman and a mother. I don't undertake terrorist acts against innocent children because I feel with their mothers," she said.

Ms. Mansour said she was determined to sue "the American government and all those who have exposed my interests to danger."

(Continued on page 4)

U.S. to stage new nuclear test this week

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States next week is expected to conduct a nuclear weapons test that could push the Soviet Union into ending a self-imposed, eight-month moratorium on testing, according to congressional sources.

One source told Reuters the test was scheduled for Tuesday. Another said that while plans call for the United States to be ready to test on Tuesday, the actual detonation could be delayed until later in the week.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said that the first U.S. test after March 31 will bring a halt to his moratorium.

President Ronald Reagan has repeatedly refused to join Moscow in the testing moratorium.

If the test is conducted on Tuesday, it would come when Soviet

Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, who is leaving Washington for a Communist Party post in Moscow, is scheduled to pay a call on Mr. Reagan.

Although many arms control advocates in Congress are worried another U.S. test could force Moscow to end its test ban, one congressional defence expert continued Mr. Gorbachev would continue the moratorium because it has served him well as a "propaganda" tool.

Mr. Dobrynin's farewell call on Mr. Reagan and an expected meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz may provide the Reagan administration with its first direct word on Mr. Gorbachev's approach to a second superpower summit.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb, announcing the

meeting with Mr. Reagan, refused to speculate on whether the veteran envoy would be bringing a message on a summit.

At their meeting in Geneva last November, Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev agreed to meet again this year in Washington, but the Kremlin leader has so far refused to set a date.

Mr. Reagan has said he would prefer late June or July but has indicated he would be willing to consider a meeting as late as December. An autumn summit is ruled out because of the November U.S. congressional elections.

Since the Geneva summit, Washington and Moscow have sparred publicly over arms control while making virtually no progress in negotiations on nuclear and space weapons.

Iraq recaptures seven mountain peaks from Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Saturday its forces had recaptured a mountain and seven surrounding peaks on the northern Gulf war front, held by Iran since 1983.

An Iraqi High Command communiqué said the peaks, in a border area opposite Iraq's Darbandikhan Dam, were taken in a 29-hour battle which started on Thursday evening.

It said Iraqi warplanes, helicopter gunships and artillery units played a big role in the battle to retrieve "Shameran" Mountain and the peaks.

"Huge numbers of Iranian troops were killed, wounded and captured... the situation was in Iraq's favour enabling our forces to completely overlook and control a very important area," the communiqué said.

This is the second big battle reported by Iraq on the northern front of the 5½-year war in nine days. Baghdad said on March 28 its forces had retaken 14 peaks also held by Iran for about three years.

Darbandikhan Dam is about 70

kilometres south of Chwarta, which is in an area where Iran launched a crossborder offensive in late-February. Iraq later said its forces had pushed the Iranians out.

Tehran Radio gave the exact location of the Iranian attacks as the Darbandikhan Dam region 30 kilometres south of Sulaymaniyah. The attack was "resoundingly crushed," it claimed.

Khomeini: Iran is no threat to Gulf

Meanwhile Supreme Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said in a broadcast statement Saturday Iran's only fight is with the Iraqi government and it has no wish to be seen as a threat to Gulf states.

"We declare once again to the countries of the region that the Islamic Republic, despite its inc-

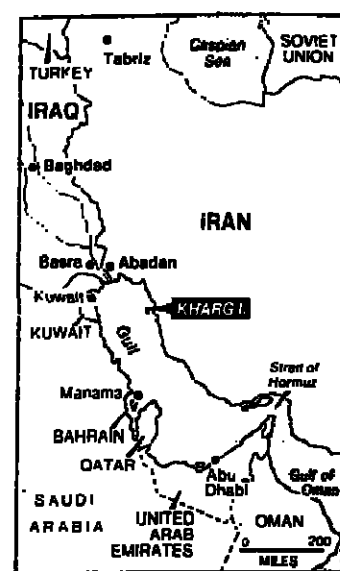
reasing power in the political and military fields, has never been bent on conquests and annexation.

"We always want to have friendly relations with Islamic countries... and to live in peace," Khomeini said in the statement broadcast by Tehran Radio.

Iranian leaders have repeatedly tried to reassure Gulf states in recent months that Iran does not want to destabilise their governments by Islamic revolution or attack, but this was the first time Khomeini has spelled out the doctrine.

Iran hopes that improved relations with Gulf countries will lead them to abandon their financial and logistical support for Iraq, Iranian leaders say they believe this is happening, although they have not produced concrete evidence.

His statement was made in answer to a report on the work of a meeting this week of Iran's top leaders, who decided to set up special committees in all 24 provinces to coordinate and increase war efforts in the light of Kho-



meini's recent call for all able-bodied men to go to the Gulf war front.

"You are doing well," Khomeini said. "But this is not the end of the path of holy defence. Officials should continue their relentless war."

"They should note that filling the front with trained forces and being prepared to defend Islam and Iran are among the most important divine duties for all classes that no other duties can overshadow," Khomeini said.

Bush arrives in Riyadh

RIYADH (Agencies) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush arrived in Riyadh Saturday at the start of a four-nation tour of the Gulf region.

Officials said he was met at the airport by the Riyadh Governor, Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz and Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar bin Sultan.

Mr. Bush, who made no statement on arrival, will inaugurate the new quarters of the U.S. embassy in Riyadh. He is due to meet King Fahd Sunday.

Mr. Bush said his trip is part of Washington's continuous efforts to secure world peace.

The U.S. vice-president, accompanied by his wife Barbara and a large official party arrived after an overnight stop at Rhein-Main Air Force Base, a U.S. military installation near Frankfurt, West Germany.

He was also scheduled to visit Bahrain, Oman and North Yemen later in his trip.

Speaking to U.S. military personnel and their dependents who greeted him as he arrived in West Germany, Mr. Bush said his meetings with Gulf leaders would be "part of the work that goes on every day, year-in and year-out, to keep the peace."

He compared his mission to that of U.S. forces in Europe.

Mr. Bush, who started his journey a day after a bomb killed four Americans aboard a TWA jetliner on route from Rome to Athens, noted he visited Rhein-Main last summer to welcome a group of U.S. citizens who had been held hostage in Beirut after gunmen seized another TWA airliner.

During his journey, the vice president will be trying to drum up support for U.S. efforts to deter terrorism, officials said.

But an even larger objective is to assure the Gulf states, most of whom are deeply worried about a possible spillover of the six-year old conflict between Iran and Iraq, that the United States remains committed to their security.

Officials said this issue was likely to overshadow a continuing controversy over the slump in oil prices and its impact on the U.S. economy.

But the price decline, which stems in part from an increase in Saudi production in the face of a worldwide glut, was expected to figure in Mr. Bush's discussions in Riyadh with King Fahd and Saudi officials.

Heavy security was planned for Mr. Bush's tour of the Gulf region, which followed Wednesday's attack in the skies over Greece and last week's clashes between U.S. and Libyan forces in the Gulf of Sirte.

Murphy to join Bush

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy meanwhile was flying in from Kuwait to team up with Mr. Bush after holding separate talks on the oil situation and other issues to be tackled by the vice president.

Mr. Murphy was in Kuwait after lightning visits to the United Arab Emirates and Qatar for the same purpose.

France expels 2 Libyan diplomats

PARIS (R) — France Saturday ordered two Libyan diplomats to leave the country as soon as possible on grounds they were involved with people possibly planning to attack U.S. installations in France, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry said.

He said the two, who were not identified, had been asked to leave after French security became "convinced they were in contact with individuals likely to commit attacks on American interests in France."

A spokesman at the Libyan diplomatic mission categorically denied the report, saying it was "totally false."

The French ministry spokesman said two other people, an Algerian and a Tunisian, had been expelled from France on April 2 on suspicion they were planning to stage attacks in Europe. The two cases were unrelated, he said.

But he said they were part of "a well-known general context."

Security at U.S. embassy and consular installations has been reinforced since there were clashes between the United States

and Libya in the Gulf of Sirte last month.

Last Wednesday, four people were killed and seven injured when a bomb exploded in an American TWA Boeing 727 airliner on a flight from Rome to Cairo via Athens.

Responsibility for the attack was claimed by a group that said the blast was in retaliation for "American imperialist attempts to bring our Arab masses to their knees, the last of which were the failed attempts to attack Libya."

Hassan II: Qadhafi has 3 obsessions

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco, a close friend of President Reagan, thinks Col. Muammar Qadhafi of Libya is a "courageous and attentive man" who is driven by three obsessions, according to an interview published here.

In the interview with the French weekly *Nouvel Observateur*, the Moroccan monarch gave his impressions of Col. Qadhafi with whom he signed a state union treaty in August 1984, to the astonishment of Washington to which the Libyan leader is anathema.

Nouvel Observateur quoted the king as saying Col. Qadhafi's three obsessions were a union of all the Arabs, a refusal to accept Israel's existence, and the neighbouring country of Chad.

"He does not tolerate that, as he says, people come to tickle the soles of his feet in Chad," King Hassan said, referring to Col. Qadhafi's involvement in Chad where he backs rebels led by former President Goukouni Oueddei in a civil war that has lasted two decades.

"He is a courteous man, and especially attentive. He relaxes quickly and is ready for a joke. His strength is his ability to listen and, when necessary, to be silent," the king said.

The king made no comment on the recent clashes between the U.S. Navy and Libya in the Gulf of Sirte.



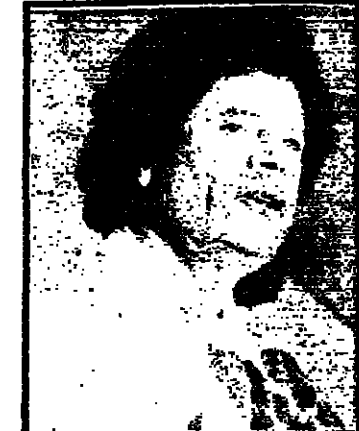
King Hassan II

Sirte, apparently because the interview was given before they happened.

Commenting on a statesman who is generally ranked as one of the most unpredictable, King Hassan said: "When one knows his obsessions well, one can easily predict him or at least not be disconcerted by his behaviour."

Describing his first meeting with Col. Qadhafi in June 1983, the king said he told him: "You are unlucky. Everyone who comes to see you as head of state is either afraid of your plots or in love with your dollars."

He said Col. Qadhafi laughed, and the king continued: "Of course, you have tried everything in order to overthrow me," referring



Col. Muammar Qadhafi

to Libyan support for Moroccan army plotters who staged abortive coups in 1971 and 1972.

According to the king, Col. Qadhafi admitted he had backed the plotters and retorted: "Naturally, but you too you have done the same thing against me."

The king said he did not deny it, but noted that their countries were separated by 3,000 kilometres, "and whatever we do it would be best to adapt ourselves to this situation."

According to the interview, the monarch confessed that his primary motive in making friends with Col. Qadhafi was to persuade Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara.

Numeiri aide gets 2 life sentences

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's former Vice-President Omar Al Tayeb Saturday received two life sentences and fines of more than 24 million pounds (\$9.6 million) for his part in the evacuation of Ethiopian Jews to Israel through Sudan.

Mr. Tayeb, already serving a 20-year sentence on separate corruption charges, was spared the death penalty because testimony against him came from men who also took part in the secret operation between November 1984 and March 1985.

Mr. Tayeb, Sudan's second most powerful man until President Jaafar Numeiri was ousted a year ago, received the first life sentence on a charge of damaging state interests by ordering security forces to work in the service of a foreign power.

Judge Abdul Rahman Abdou held Mr. Tayeb was aware that the 6,600 Ethiopian Jews, known as Falashas, were bound for Israel and that this would help the Jewish state in the Arab-Israeli conflict by reinforcing its population.

The state security court handed Mr. Tayeb his second life sentence on a charge of endangering Sudan's independence and the safety of its territory by allowing U.S. planes to land in secret to carry out a task on behalf of Israel.

The defendant put Sudanese troops under the direct control of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and made Sudan an American proxy," the judge said.

A 24,120,000 pound (\$9.6 million) fine and a three-year prison term went with an illegal enrichment charge for receiving \$2

million from the CIA for Mr. Tayeb's help in the evacuation. The judge said he believed witnesses who said the money went into Mr. Tayeb's personal account in London.

All Mr. Tayeb's property was confiscated — including 10 properties and six luxury cars — for the same offence, and the judge ruled that if the defendant did not pay the fine, he should serve another 14 years in jail.

The judge found Mr. Tayeb guilty on four other lesser charges under a 1958 law to combat Israel, the Civil Aviation Law and the Passport and Immigration Law.

For these offences, Mr. Tayeb was sentenced to a further three-and-a-half years in prison and fines of 1,100 pounds (\$440).

Junblatt, Silvestrini hold talks

VATICAN CITY (R) — Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt received in audience by Archbishop Achille Silvestrini, the Vatican's "foreign minister," the Vatican said.

Mr. Junblatt, who is also Lebanon's minister of transport, public works and tourism, talked privately with Silvestrini for about an hour.

As is customary with private audiences, the Vatican did not reveal what the two men discussed.

Pope John Paul sent Silvestrini, secretary of the Council for the Public Affairs of the church, on a peace mission to Beirut and Damascus last month. The Pope has made repeated calls for an end to violence in Lebanon.

Mr. Junblatt also met Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and the two men exchanged views on the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East, the Foreign Ministry said.

French observers arrived home

PARIS (R) — Forty-five French military observers returned to an airbase outside Paris after the government ended their ceasefire monitoring mission in Beirut.

The troops observed a minute's silence in honour of seven comrades killed during the force's two-year duty in Lebanon.

France's new right-wing government said it was pulling the observers out of Beirut as their mission had become impossible due to the failure of attempts to bring peace to Lebanon.

Sudanese garrison escapes from siege

WAU, Sudan (R) — A Sudanese army brigadier has described how 300 government troops survived a two-month siege by over 5,000 rebel guerrillas and then led 2,200 civilians to safety in a 12-day trek through enemy territory.

Brig. Makur De Gagai, commissioner of Buhairat province in southern Sudan, said townspeople of Rumbek ran out of grain at the end of last year and together with the army garrison lived off unripe mangoes and wild vegetables until their escape in March.

He said that in the last weeks of the siege ammunition ran so low that soldiers received orders not to return fire unless the rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) were on top of their defences.

"They were attacking any time they wanted... they had complete freedom of movement," the brigadier told Reuters.

The garrison eventually gave up hope that Khartoum, 1,040 kil-

ometres north west, would send a relief force and set off southwards on a journey during which at least 23 women and children died of hunger and thirst.

Three soldiers, two policemen and two civilians were killed in nine SPLA attacks on the trekkers during their 445-kilometre flight to safety at the town of Maridi, he added.

Rumbek's troubles began last December, when the SPLA sent two more battalions to reinforce one already in Buhairat in an attempt to extend its influence westwards from Upper Nile, its traditional stronghold.

The three battalions, each of over 1,000 fighters, sealed off Rumbek and began shelling and night attacks to force the civilians out and starve the garrison into submission.

The brigadier decided to evacuate Rumbek in early March and civilians had no choice but to follow.

With only three trucks, four cars and two armoured personnel carriers between them, 2,500 people left the town early on March 5 and walked across the savannah through the night until they reached water, the brigadier said.

They camped by a stream for five days, foraged for sorghum and beans and fought off guerrillas who attempted to approach the encampment. Conditions improved when they reached the village of Myolo on March 11 and were able to contact the government post in Maridi for supplies and transport.

Brig. De Gagai said there should be an official inquiry into why reinforcements did not reach Rumbek in time.

In Wau, Maj. Gen. Fadl Al Mula Ibrahim said transport problems had held up relief attempts. The Sudanese army had only one serviceable Hercules C-130 transport plane, he said.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

16:00 Koran
16:20 Live transmission of Soccer match: Oman Vs. Iraq
18:00 Local Programme
18:40 Arabic series
19:30 A special religious programme
20:30 News in Arabic
21:30 Tomorrow's Programme
21:40 Islamic play
22:30 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 Play cont.

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Musique Jazz
19:00 News in French
19:15 French Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Me and My Girl
21:10 Man and Music
22:30 Best Seller: The Long Hot Summer

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 94 MHz. FM
& purely on 4560 KHz. SW
Tel: 77111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:30 Morning Show
10:30 News Summary
11:30 Pop Session
12:30 News Summary
13:00 Pop Session Cont.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:15 Science Report
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Entertainment
18:00 News Summary
18:45 Jazz Hour
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 Evening Show Cont.
22:00 Evening Show Cont.

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1200, KHz 7200, 9665, 11740,
11925 & 15210

06:00 News 06:30 VOA Morning 06:30
News Summary/VOA Morning 07:00
News 07:30 Focus 07:30 News Sum-
mary VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10
News Hour 08:30 News Summary
VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:00 News
Horizons and New Products 17:30
Music USA Standards 18:00 News 18:10
International Viewpoints 18:30 Special
Shows and FEATURES 19:00
News 19:10 Cable's Choice 19:30 Issues
in the News 20:00 News

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

An art exhibition by Mohammad Abu Zuhair at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery

A fine art exhibition by Ayad Al Nimer at the Royal Cultural Centre (until April 8).

Art exhibition by Ghada Dababneh at Petra Bank Gallery (until April 9).

Sculptures exhibition at the French Cultural Centre starting Friday (until April 11).

Exhibition of bronze statues by Layla Hadad at her open studio in Al Rabieh suburb, near Al Rabieh pharmacy (until April 11).

An exhibition entitled: "Danish and Arabic Architecture" at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, University of Jordan.

PLAY

An Arabic play for children by the Fawwaz Theatre Group at 5:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 664371
American Cultural Library 641520
British Council 6361478
French Cultural Centre 637009
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 642003
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 641793
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. 642251
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Follies Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre,

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2.00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club, Jabel Amman, Elghish Circle. Tel. 815261, 981410.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lweishieh, 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Adzali, 623451.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 678006.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 771331.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.

Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 677534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295.

Rabaiab Congregation (International, interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabel Amman, Tel. 669974.

PRAYER TIMES

06:53 Sunrise
07:00 Sunrise
12:39 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:00 Maghrib
20:24 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53200-1, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

03:30 Bucharest (RO)
07:30 Baghdad (IA)
10:40 Berlin (IF)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RU)
12:30 Bangkok (RU)
10:45 Cairo (RU)
10:45 Jeddah (RU)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RU)
14:25 Kuwait (KU)
16:10 Riyadh (SV)
16:45 Tripoli (LN)
18:30 Cairo (RU)
18:30 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RU)

18:45 Athens, Damascus (RU)
18:50 New York, Amsterdam (RU)
18:55 Paris, Brussels (RU)
18:55 Adana (RU)
19:00 London (RU)
19:00 Madrid, Rome (RU)
19:10 Frankfurt, Geneva (RU)
21:50 London (BA)
00:30 Cairo (MS)
01:25 Baghdad (RU)

DEPARTURES

04:30 Bucharest (RO)
06:30 Frankfurt (LF)
07:30 Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)
08:30 Athens (RU)
09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
09:40 Beirut (ME)
10:35 Damascus, Rome (AZ)
11:20 Berlin (IF)
11:45 Tunis, Casablanca (RU)
12:00 Athens, New York (RU)
12:30 Adana (RU)
14:30 Cairo (RU)
15:35 Kuwait (KU)
17:40 Riyadh (SV)
17:45 Tripoli (LN)
20:00 Sana'a (LH)
20:35 Frankfurt (RU)
20:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RU)
21:00 Damascus (RU)
21:30 Peking (RU)

21:30 Baghdad (RU)
21:15 Cairo (RU)
21:30 Dubai, Muscat (RU)
22:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RU)
22:45 London (RU)
23:00 Bangkok (RU)
23:10 Baghdad, London (RU)
01:05 Cairo (MS)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Ibn Hishm
— Pioneer Runner
— Sea Speed Aramco
— Tashit

Amn Kavar and Sons Company, Tel: 622324-9 at your service.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hazy and partly cloudy. Possibility there will be scattered showers in the southern and central parts of the country. Winds will be southeasterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be hazy and partly cloudy. Scattered showers will be there, associated with the monsoons at times. Winds will be southerly fresh and sea rough.

Amman 13/26
Aqaba 16/23
Dahsh 12/27
Jordan Valley 16/22

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 26, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 17 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Saturday rates
Local selling rates in fils
Belgian franc 71.9/74.1
Dutch guilder 133.4/135.8
French franc 47.4/48
Italian lire 21.6/22
Japanese yen (for 100) 198.7/201.7
Swedish crown 48.1/48.7
Swiss franc 180.2/182.8
U.S. sterling pound 521.4/527.6
U.S. dollar 359.6/363.6
W. German mark 150/153.1

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
Amman civil defence 158, 159
Civil Defence Td 271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qadisiyah 770733
Civil Defence Dera'a 57306
Ambulance 153, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigades 138
First aid 630341
Red Cross 78303
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire brigades 620906
Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters 639141
Traffic police 8963901
Electric Power Co. 6363816, 624881
Municipal water complaints 771258
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 5330360

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman 6424172
Jabel Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641741
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
Umm al-Hiran Hospital 843555
Al-Munassar Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Adzali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Adzali 6641646
Istina, Al-Muhajreen 7710173
Al-Badr, J. Ashrafieh 75111726
Amn, Meisani 8916115
Queen Alia Int. Airport 66240450
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Dr. Ghassan Al Fakih 986432
Omran pharmacy (-)
Al Tawfik pharmacy (-)

Jordan Television 773111/19
Radio Jordan 774111/19
Ministry of Tourism 642311
Hotel complaints 664112
Police complaints 661176
Telephone information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 17
Repair service 11

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NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Adnan Agrabawi 893122
Dr. Abdul Latif Al Najjar 775050
First pharmacy 664912
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Mishar pharmacy 668337
Khalid pharmacy 666601

TALEX:
Venezia taxi 644583
Al Akhram taxi 663911
Mishar taxi 644533
Amman taxi 666022
Shamsi taxi 665294

IRBID:
Dr. Fawaz Al Mousalli (-)
Al Hama pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ghassan Al Fakih 986432
Omran pharmacy (-)
Al Tawfik pharmacy (-)

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Radio Jordan 774111/19
Ministry of Tourism 642311
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Jordan Valley 16/22

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 240/120
Apple (golden) 240/180
Banana 300/240
Banana (Mullammar) 250/220
Beetroot 120/80
Beetroot 280/240
Broad beans 280/240
Cabbage 60/40
Carrot (yellow) 140/100
Cauliflower 150/120
Cauliflower (large) 140/100
Cauliflower (small) 740/120
Eggplant (large) 170/130
Eggplant (small) 240/180
Garlic 280/240
Grapefruit 140/100
Lemon 240/180
Lemon (per case) 100/100
Mint (large) 100/80
Mint (small) 180/120
Onion (dry) 180/140
Onion (green) 140/100
Orange (Shamouti) 320/250
Orange (local and Valencia) 130/100
Peanut (roast) 150/120
Pepper (green) 180/140
Potatoes (local) 320/280
Potatoes (foreign) 180/140
Raddish 80/50
Raddish 150/120
Tomatoes 120/80
Turnip 80/50

Jordan to observe holy anniversary on Monday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Monday will observe Al Isra'a Wal Miraj Day (the anniversary marking the Prophet Mohammed's nocturnal journey and ascension to heaven) and Al Aqsa Day.

On the occasion, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs issued a statement in which it reminded Muslim people of their duty to rescue Al Aqsa Mosque from Israeli occupation. The repeated Israeli violations of the sanctity of the holy shrine in Arab Jerusalem and the continued occupation of Arab territory should prompt all Muslims and Arabs to unify their ranks and pool their resources to liberate their usurped land, the statement said.

The liberation of the holy land requires determination and strong will and serious steps to be taken on the Arab and Islamic level, the statement added. The statement appealed to Arabs and Muslims to end their differences and to unify their ranks for the sake of liberating their land. The holy land is now subjected to oppression and the people there are

being exposed to all forms of arbitrary actions and await freedom and salvation, the statement continued.

Amman Governor Ali Al Bashir requested provincial governors to organise special ceremonies in mosques to mark the holy occasion. He also ordered that all night clubs, liquor stores and bars should be closed in Amman and its suburbs from Sunday evening until Tuesday morning. All government departments and public institutions will be closed on Monday and Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali has instructed various departments to celebrate the occasion.

A religious ceremony will be held under royal patronage at Al Hussein Mosque in downtown Amman on Sunday afternoon to mark the occasion. Speakers at the ceremony will include Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheilan, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and director of the Department of Culture and Arts Haidar Mahmud.

Swiss firm to construct radio transmitter station

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Swiss firm Brown-Boveri will build a new radio-transmitter station at Qasr Al Kharraneh at a cost of JD 14.5 million and will complete the turnkey project in 28 months, in accordance with a contract signed with the Jordanian government in Amman on Saturday.

The contract provides for the construction of a comprehensive transmitter station capable of relaying short and long wave transmissions which could cover the whole Arab region and as far as

the Americas. The Swiss firm will draw up contracts with local firms to carry out the civil works of the project, which is to be built not far from the Queen Alia International Airport.

According to the agreement, a consortium of West German and Swiss banks will provide Jordan with a loan for the project. Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib and Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh and representatives of the consortium signed the contract.

Dudin outlines role of AMPCO in regulating Jordan's agribusiness

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO), which was established in 1984, has helped local farmers and vegetable and fruit producers to market their products in Jordan and abroad and is continuing to absorb surplus output for processing at its factories. AMPCO Director General Marwan Dudin said here Friday.

Interviewed by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Dudin said that the company exported 28,632 tonnes of tomatoes, aubergines, marrows, lemons and cucumbers between April 1985 and the end of March 1986, and processed 46,802 tonnes of surplus tomatoes during this season.

AMPCO is now encouraging farmers to produce more potatoes, onions and garlic some of which is being exported at good prices and at present the company is receiving 75 tonnes of potatoes on a daily basis to be marketed here and abroad, Mr. Dudin said. AMPCO has set up centres at Qhor Al Safi, south Shuneh, Al Arida and Wadi Al Yabis which receive crops from farmers who are abiding by the company's regulations and rules concerning the grading and packing of crops, Mr. Dudin continued.

Pricing system
He said that experts from the company, in cooperation with farmers, fix the prices of crops for the local market and for export and often AMPCO purchases surplus crops and markets them in Jordan to save the farmers from incurring losses.

The company aims at stabilising the prices of crops at a reasonable rate for consumers which at the same time guarantees returns for farmers, he explained. The company does not allow prices to soar

otherwise it would be impossible for the crops to be marketed at all, he added.

Marketing — Mr. Dudin, the government official, said that the company's main role is to help farmers to export crops with the purpose of helping local producers to withstand competition in world markets or whenever the conditions are unfavourable and farmers suffer losses. AMPCO also purchases any quantities of surplus tomatoes from farmers for processing into paste and offers double the market price, Mr. Dudin continued.

Mr. Dudin went on to say that AMPCO paid a total of JD 6,299,298 to 2,400 farmers for their crops or in compensation between April 1985 and the end of the year. He said that the company markets the crops or processes the surplus in accordance with the market's needs.

Trade exchange

Through AMPCO, the government implements Jordan's agreements on trade exchange with other countries and also through the company the country imports certain types of other food supplies needed by Jordan, Mr. Dudin said. Jordan tries to purchase its needs from countries which buy Jordanian phosphates and sells crops to those which export essential goods to the Kingdom and this is done through AMPCO which serves as an import-export corporation similar to those in Egypt, Syria and Iraq, Mr. Dudin said.

Mr. Dudin said the best advice for farmers is to provide good quality produce for the market and to avoid any cheating in packing the crops in boxes going out for sale. He said that by selling good quality products, farmers would ensure continuous markets for their products and would also help Jordan prosper.



CHAT WITH PUPILS: Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark and his wife Maureen McTeer (chat with pupils of a UNRWA school they visited in the north of the country on Saturday. Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (standing on the far left) accompanied Mr. Clark on his visit to the school (Petra photo)

Corporation to build 11,275 housing units in next 5 years

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Corporation plans to spend JD 124.8 million on housing projects in the Kingdom over the coming five years, according to corporation sources. They said that 11,275 housing units will be built in different regions in accordance with the corporation's (1986-1990) five year plan.

At least JD 10 million will be spent on completing the Abu Nusair housing estate west of Amman and, according to estimates, the 3,000 units now under construction will be completed by the end of 1986.

The corporation's projects in Zarqa Governorate will be executed at Batrawi district where 500 units will be erected at a cost of JD 6 million. In Zarqa and other urban regions 2,100 units will be built at a cost of JD 25.2 million and in the rural regions of the governorate more than 1,000 units will be constructed at a cost of JD 6.3 million, the sources said.

According to the corporation's plans, housing projects will be carried out in Irbid Governorate at a cost of JD 24 million. These will be located at Parkia in Irbid city and neighbouring rural regions. In Mafraq, the corporation will build 125 housing units at a cost of JD 750,000 and in Balqa JD 9 million will be spent on building 925 units in urban and rural regions.

In Karak Governorate, 500 housing units will be built at a cost of JD 5.25 million and in Ma'an 400 units will be constructed at a cost of JD 4 million. In Aqaba 175 units will be built at a cost of JD 2.1 million, the sources said.

Spanish parliamentarians conclude visit to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Spanish parliamentary delegation Saturday wound up a week-long visit to Jordan and left for home. The delegation's leader, Leopoldo Torres Boursault, described the visit as "fruitful and successful" and said that the delegation's members were briefed on Jordan's views with regard to the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Boursault, who is speaker of the Spanish House of Parliament, said that he held important talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Akel Al Fayed, dealing with the situation in the region and he added that he also familiarised himself with the sufferings of the Palestinian people, now deprived of their homeland.

Spain seeks to establish a just and durable Middle East settlement, Mr. Boursault said in a statement carried by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra. He said that his talks with Jordanian officials covered bilateral cooperation in industrial, economic and trade affairs.

Majali meets with visiting Kuwaiti education team

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali Saturday met with under-secretary of the Education Ministry in Kuwait Rashid Al Hamad and the accompanying delegation currently on a visit to Jordan. Mr. Majali paid tribute to the cooperation and relations linking the two countries in various fields, especially education and the exchange of educational experience.

Mr. Majali stressed his ministry's desire to further promote these relations to serve the interests of the two countries. The ministry's secretary-general, Dr. Ahmad Al Bashareh, attended the meeting.

Jordan marks welfare day

Voluntary societies, individuals receive medals for their contribution to social development

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

launched by GUVS have proved their success, Dr. Khatib said.

GUVS projects

AMMAN — Royal medals and shields were presented to a number of leading individuals and societies working in the field of social welfare during a special ceremony held in Amman on Saturday to mark the Kingdom's social welfare day.

During the ceremony, held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), concerned government officials delivered speeches praising the pioneering role of social welfare and voluntary societies and individuals and they called for more cooperation between the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and these societies.

Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali gave a speech in which he paid tribute to leaders of social work who have assisted the Kingdom in pushing forward its socio-economic development plans.

Mr. Majali emphasised the important roles played by all social welfare and voluntary societies which he said were established in order to promote the country's development and prosperity with the participation of all social strata and individuals. Mr. Majali also said that social welfare and voluntary work is a cornerstone of social work in which cooperation and responsibilities are shared between the government and private social work sectors.

According to Mr. Majali, the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF), the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation which were established in 1959, 1978, 1980 and 1985 respectively are pillars of social and voluntary work in Jordan.

Mr. Majali called for more planning and coordination between the Ministry of Social Development and social voluntary organisations in order to define a concrete policy and to draw up a clear picture of the role each of the voluntary societies is to play.

The national aid fund, Mr. Majali said, is a collective effort and a result of the cooperation between private and public social welfare societies. The fund was promised by His Majesty King Hussein in his speech from the throne at parliament's inauguration last November. Presently the law governing the fund's activities is passing through constitutional procedures before it is presented to the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament for approval.

The issuance of the law governing the fund is expected to result in a qualitative transformation in the field of social welfare services in Jordan, will help unify the public and private social work efforts and will try to fight poverty, Jordan's 1986 budget has allocated money to establish the fund.

The minister also hailed the efforts of West Bank social and voluntary societies in combating the Israeli authority's policies which aim at evicting the people from their land and he added that these societies play a role in strengthening the steadfastness of the Palestinians.

Minister of Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan also delivered a keynote address to the ceremony. In his speech, Mr. Haj Hassan said that Jordan is proud of its human resources and therefore the Kingdom has constantly stressed the importance of training and developing local manpower to play an important role in the country's socio-economic development.

Mr. Haj Hassan emphasised the importance of cooperation among public and private sector societies working in the field of social work and social development. "The social welfare and voluntary organisations assist and complement governmental efforts in the field of comprehensive social development which aim at achieving happiness and stability in Jordanian society," he said.

Mr. Haj Hassan cited the national aid fund as an example of joint cooperation between the government and private social welfare institutions since he said both sectors will shoulder their responsibilities to help alleviate poverty in Jordan. The minister also paid tribute to all social welfare and voluntary societies and individuals and stressed his ministry's support for all their efforts.

Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, president of the GUVS board of executive directors, in his address said that the annual celebration to mark social work day is a reassurance of the due attention the government of Jordan gives to this event. Dr. Khatib said that the social welfare and voluntary societies have played major roles in the areas of social welfare, health, education, rehabilitation, child welfare, rural development and care for the elderly people and prisoners as well as poor families.

He added that the voluntary societies in the occupied West Bank have played a major role in realising social development since there are no government institutions working in this field due to the Israeli occupation. Dr. Khatib also praised the role of the QAJSWF in promoting social development in general and in upgrading community development and the rehabilitation of the handicapped in particular.

The GFJW, he said, has also played a leading role in developing its services and the country looks forward to seeing the federation embarking on wide-scale projects that address the needs of Jordanian women.

Dr. Khatib outlined the course of action which the social welfare and voluntary societies aim at achieving through the cooperation of all social strata and individuals in society. The GUVS president also outlined the activities the voluntary societies in both the East and West Banks of Jordan in the areas of rehabilitation, child welfare, academic and vocational education and the irradiation of illiteracy.

The union is also giving due attention to cater for the needs of elderly people and orphans as well as developing rural areas and caring for the families or martyrs and prisoners in the West Bank of Jordan, he said. "The one-plaster a day" campaign and the collection of kind contribution campaign

Presently, GUVS is working towards establishing a village to care for elderly people and the government has allocated a special area for this purpose, he added.

Dr. Khatib called on all concerned authorities to impose taxes on each pack of cigarettes with the proceeds to go for the benefit of the Al Amal centre for the treatment of cancer. He also expressed hope that the Ministry of Education will assist GUVS in the "Knock-on-the-door-campaign" which begins at the end of this month and aims at collecting money for the benefit of the poor and needy.

At the end of the speeches, Mr. Majali presented Royal medals and shields to eight individuals and 27 societies in the East and West Banks of Jordan's 11 governorates for their pioneering roles in the field of social welfare and voluntary work.

The eight individuals who were given Royal medals were: Mr. Mohammad Ali Budeir, Mrs. Nazek Al Hariri, Mrs. Margaret Qattan, Haj Mousbah Al Zamil, Mrs. Najeh Al Nabulsi, Mr. Izzat Sajdi, Mrs. Ellen Al A'raj and Mr. Sa'eb Al Nather.

The following voluntary societies were given Royal shields for their outstanding role in promoting social welfare and development: The Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA), the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the Jordanian society for the development of women, the Mental Health Society, Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, the Saladdin Charitable Society in Madaba, the Islamic charitable society, the society of Jerash ladies, Al Manshih Society (Bani Hassan), Omar Ibn Al Khattab Charitable Society, the Azraq Society for Development, Mar Jerus Orthodox Charitable Society, Balqa'a Society for Development, the federation society for Mu'ab girls, the Ghour Al Mazra' society, the Tafleeh youth society, Al Qabbas charitable society, the Arab women's society, the Arab children's charitable society (Jerusalem), the Women's Development Society (Ramallah), the society for the comfort of the family (Al Bireh), the ladies society for child welfare (Beit Jala), the Red Crescent Society (Nablus), the Red Crescent Society (Tul Kareem), the Murabitat Charitable Society (Qalqiliyah), the Islamic charitable society and the Red Crescent Society (Hebron).

The Ministry of Social Development has organised various celebrations throughout the country's regions to mark Social Work Day. The celebrations include visits to social welfare societies and hospitals to distribute presents, food and clothes to patients and beneficiaries and to organise celebrations in which beneficiaries of these societies and their families can participate.

The governorates of Mafraq and Zarqa held their ceremonies on Sunday. Celebration ceremonies will be held in Ma'an and Aqaba on Tuesday, in Balqa, Madaba and the Jordan Valley on Wednesday, in Irbid and Jerash on Thursday and in Karak and Tafleeh on Saturday.

Colour, entertainment on the sea-bed

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Abu Al Fawaris at the Bottom of the Saksak" is a colourful, visually spectacular and entertaining one-act play performed by children for children. The play is about an area under the sea, the Saksak, and the children are the fish which live there. The play, written and produced by the Fawaris theatrical group, opened on March 27 on the occasion of World Theatre Day at the Royal Cultural Centre's studio theatre and will run until April 7.

The Saksak consists of seven types of fish and one human, Abu Al Fawaris, who tells the fish the story of the Saksak as his grandfather told it to him. The fish have different characters; one is bashful, one is popular, one is understanding, and one is a conceited octopus. The octopus is everyone's enemy because each year he comes to the Saksak to eat one of the fish. However, this year the fish decide to unite and pretend they are one big fish and kill the octopus.

Realistic set

The set makes the audience feel that these children are really fish living under the sea. Two screens at each end of the stage have special lights projected on to them giving the appearance of the sea. The costumes are very colourful and designed in such a way that the children do look like fish. Also, the songs are bright and festive.

There are two distinctive characteristics about this play; the choreography and the audience participation. The children in the play have dances that suit the situation and they move like real fish. According to the director, Miss Samar Dudin, these children have not had any previous experience in dancing, except for one girl. This is the first play Miss Dudin has directed, except for school plays. She received her Bachelor of Arts in theatre arts from the University of Santa



Fish with fish under the sea

Clara, California, and now teaches creative dramatics at the Ahlia School for Girls. Miss Dudin enjoys working with children and feels it is easier for children to learn dancing steps than it is for adults. She says: "There should be more emphasis on children's theatre in Jordan."

Audience participation

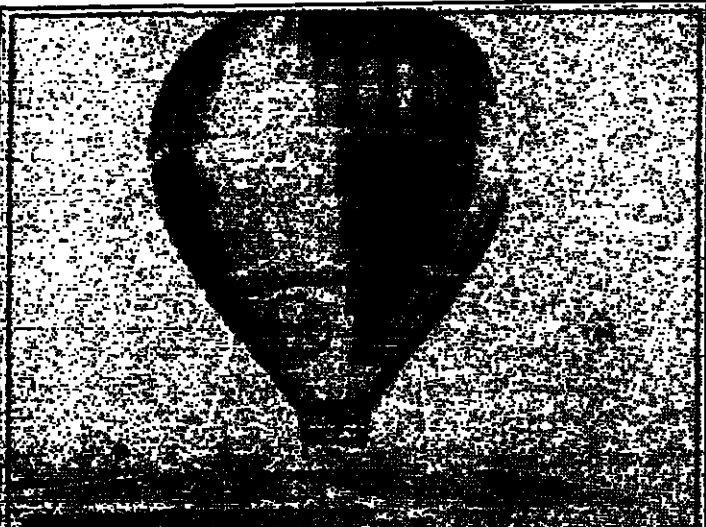
The studio theatre at the RCC was well attended by mostly small children accompanied by their parents. The children in the audience were included in the play in different ways. At the beginning of the performance, songs of greetings were sung and the audience was asked to sing along. In other scenes, the story teller speaks to the children spectators, asks them questions and the children answer back. After the audience was in the mood to join in, the participation became greater. In one scene, the story-teller holds a draw where the fish who picks the shortest stick in the box is the one to be given to the octopus to eat. The conceited fish peeks in the box and tries to see where the shortest stick is. Some of the children in the theatre start shouting out to the story-teller that the fish is cheating. In another scene, one fish is looking for her bashful friend, calling out his name and he is hiding from her. Some of the audience

start shouting: "He's there, he's there, behind the pole!" The small children watching the play were really excited that they were included in the performance and clapped after every song and every scene.

Views of the audience

One adult viewer who brought her two daughters with her, told the Jordan Times that as a parent she was happy to see her children enjoying the performance. She says: "But as an adult, looking at the play critically, I feel that there were unnecessary things said such as when one fish says to the conceited fish 'I hate you' so aggressively because it was obvious she disliked him. And 'you dummy' was used several times, and 'shut up.' I don't think such vocabulary should be used in children's theatre, because they will only learn such words and use them more often after seeing a play they loved."

The children under ten years of age really liked the play, thought it stimulating and had nothing negative to say about it. One girl, fourteen years old, says: "This play is nice and fun, but I did not like the story; it is a story for very small children, and I'm too old to enjoy the actual story. But as a performance I think it was a job well done by the kids, and my little sister loved it."



FLYING HIGH: Lufthansa, the West German airline has increased the number of flights between Frankfurt and Amman from four to five per week and to mark this occasion the airline launched a hot air balloon in Amman on Friday. Splashed with the yellow and blue Lufthansa colours, the manned balloon took off with Lufthansa DC 10 captain Mathijs aboard after being put together and filled with hot air in the western suburbs of Amman. Lufthansa first operated on the Amman route in 1976 with the introduction of two weekly flights.

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Canadian asbestos town fights to prevent extinction

By Jane Arraf

Reuter

ASBESTOS, Quebec — This town perched at the edge of the largest asbestos mine in the Western world is trying to clear its name, which for many people is synonymous with cancer and lung disease.

The people of Asbestos say that reputation is undeserved and the mineral does not pose the danger that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says it does.

The EPA, saying that no exposure to asbestos is without risk, called in January for a gradual ban on Canadian asbestos imports and annual cuts until use of the product is completely phased out in the United States within 10 years.

The Canadian industry is worried, not about the 15 per cent of production sold to the United States but about negative publicity scaring off important markets in developing countries, which account for about 60 per cent of its annual \$39.2 million worth of asbestos sales.

"There's a feeling it's unfair, there's no way people should be doing that to us in the USA and they're (townspeople) upset as hell about it," the vice-president of operations at JM Asbestos, Edward McKenna, who has been with the company for 35 years, told Reuters.

Only five years ago, Asbestos was a prosperous community of 10,500 people in the heart of Quebec's eastern townships, halfway between Montreal and Quebec City.

Now the town's population has dropped to about 7,200 and 2,000 jobs have been lost since 1980. The youngest workers at the mine have been there for 17 years.

The town is a victim of the decline of the asbestos industry throughout Canada and the United States, where 20,000 lawsuits charging the industry with failing to warn of the dangers of working with asbestos are still pending.

Manville Corporation, the U.S. asbestos giant, employed almost 3,000 people here at its Johns Manville Canada subsidiary's Jeffrey Mine. Teenagers left school knowing they would probably follow their fathers to work at the mine, earning three times the minimum wage for Quebec province.

Then in the early 1980s, new mines opened in other parts of the world and damages against United States asbestos companies began to be awarded in the millions of dollars.

Manville filed for bankruptcy, deciding to get out of the asbestos business. Three years ago, it sold its operations here to a group of investors who renamed it JM Asbestos Inc.

The price of asbestos continued to drop and is now at its lowest level in six years.

But townspeople and industry

officials believe that the fibre presents far less risk now than it did years ago, when it was being sprayed on and blown into walls as insulation.

They assert that the EPA proposal is based on politics and outdated studies and that the biggest problem facing their industry now is negative publicity.

JM Asbestos' McKenna and other company officials say conditions have changed since the days when workers emptied cars of asbestos with shovels and children walked through a layer of asbestos dust in the streets on their way to school.

The exodus of workers has left much of Asbestos' population ageing or unemployed, gradually realising that the security and growing markets of the 1970s are gone forever.

For years asbestos firms denied there were health risks and the fibre was used in buildings across North America.

People working with asbestos have contracted mesothelioma, a rare, usually fatal cancer of the lung and stomach lining that some studies say may take up to 30 years to develop, and asbestosis, a progressive lung deterioration linked to inhaling the tiny white fibres.

JM president Peter Kyle said the product's main use now as a reinforcement for concrete locks in the asbestos fibres so they cannot be inhaled and does not present a health problem.

"Maybe today you see the effect of conditions in the early 1950s and prior to that but these conditions don't exist anymore," Georges Olney, personnel and public relations manager and a 35-year company veteran, said.

Olney said no one has come down with cancer or asbestosis since a new mill, which he said was still one of the most modern and safest in the world, was built in 1955.

Quebec is the largest producer of asbestos for export in the West. The mineral is also found in concentrated deposits in the Soviet Union, South Africa and the United States.

About 3,000 of 4,000 jobs remaining in Canada's asbestos industry are in Quebec, but 4,000 mining jobs have been lost in the area since 1980. The Quebec government, which has invested heavily in the industry, is trying to hold onto what is left.

Quebec's mines minister plans to send representatives to South America and Africa before a conference in Geneva this summer where labour groups will discuss safe use of asbestos.

Canada's mines minister Robert Layton plans to lobby Washington along with Quebec officials, unions and industry groups to try to prevent implementation of the EPA ban.

And the people of Asbestos have faith that they still have a future.



Amaranth, a little-known but unusually nutritious crop that grows under many climatic conditions, could help ease world hunger and improve health in many poor nations.

High-tech crop breeding may ease world hunger

By Suzanne Dean

A U.S. company, using the latest biotechnology methods, is planning to breed an ideal strain of a little-known crop — amaranth. The plant, which is unusually nutritious and grows under many climatic conditions, could help ease world hunger and improve health in many poor nations.

AN American company is working to transform amaranth, a little-known nutritious plant that once fed the Aztec empire in South America, into a modern agricultural product that could help ease world hunger.

NPI (the letters stand for Native Plants Inc.), one of the fastest-growing biotechnology companies in the United States, is applying the latest knowledge from biology to create useful products.

The company plans to modify and perfect amaranth as a crop by "cloning" thousands of identical plants and subjecting them to various scientific tests and by programming computers to track the gene makeup of test plants.

The result, says Dr. Hugh Bolinger, a biologist and vice pre-

sident of NPI, could be an ideal strain of the crop. Amaranth could then be grown in large fields and planted, cultivated and harvested by machines seven to 10 years sooner than would have been possible in the past.

Through history, various crops that at one time were unfamiliar to most people have been developed over time to become major sources of the world's food, notes a report by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. Examples include potatoes, soybeans, sunflowers and peanuts.

Amaranth is an unusually nutritious combination vegetable and grain that can grow in a variety of climates, even under unfavourable conditions. It could become the world's next new and

important food, says the report.

If so, it will be the first such crop to be rapidly improved and hybridized in the scientific laboratory rather than through decades of cross-breeding in the farm field. NPI will play a major role in shaping the characteristics of the crop.

Amaranth cultivation died out in the Americas centuries ago except for some remote mountain villages in Mexico, Central America and Peru, where it is still grown today.

Other species of amaranth are grown in villages in India, Pakistan, Nepal, Tibet, the People's Republic of China, Malaysia, Indonesia and Africa.

Amaranth is one of the world's few broadleaf plants that also produces grain. The Academy of Sciences report describes it as a "beautiful crop with brilliantly coloured leaves, stems and flowers of purple, orange and gold."

The leaves can be eaten as a vegetable, like spinach. But each of the plant's seed heads yields up to

50,000 seed grains that can be ground into flour for bread.

The greatest food potential is in the seed grains, which have a higher protein content than rice, oats, barley, wheat, maize or rice. The amaranth grain is high in one protein nutrient, the amino acid lysine, that is lacking in other grains. If amaranth were added to the present diet, it could improve health in many poorer nations.

Amaranth can be grown under many climatic conditions, often with one-third of the water required for wheat. The plants can flourish in both saline and alkaline soils.

Strains could be developed for Ethiopia and other dry and famine-stricken areas of East Africa, says Bolinger. Amaranth might also be grown during the dry seasons in countries that have monsoon rains.

However, emphasises Bolinger, much research must be done before the plant is ready for mass cultivation.

Translation of Buddhist Canon a transcendent task

By Chikako Takahashi

TOKYO — The use of word processors might shorten the period for completing this project to about 70 years. Otherwise, we had estimated it to take 200 years," says Prof. Shoyu Hanayama. He and a dedicated team are translating the entire Buddhist Canon from Chinese and Japanese into English.

Buddhist doctrines, taught by Buddha Shakyamuni, entered China via Central Asia. By the second century A.D., the scriptures were already being translated into Chinese from the Sanskrit and Pali Canons. The texts that will be translated into English in this project is mainly the Chinese Canon compiled in Japan as Taisho Daizokyo.

Buddhism was introduced to Japan via China and Korea. The study of the original texts began only during the latter half of the 19th century.

The Buddhist scriptures consist

of two major divisions. One is a record of Shakyamuni's teachings. The other is the set of rules for monastic discipline laid down by Shakyamuni.

In more recent times, commentaries on these two divisions were added. These three sections make up the Buddhist Canon or so-called "Three Baskets."

Prompted by developments in textual research, several editions of the Chinese Canon were published in Japan, the most recent being the publication of the Taisho Daizokyo (Taisho Edition) from 1924-1934. This is regarded as the best compilation extant. In Japan, Chinese texts are read using the Japanese pronunciation of the characters.

Taisho Daizokyo consists of

80,000 pages in 85 volumes. According to Hanayama, the most qualified translator is a Buddhist scholar who can read Chinese and write English well. There are less than 100 such persons in the world.

This huge project is organized by the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (Buddhist Promoting Foundation), which was founded by Yehan Numata, chairman of the Minutony Manufacturing Co., in 1965 in Tokyo.

Numata is now 88 years old. He went to the United States 70 years ago and graduated from the University of California. He founded his company in 1934. It eventually ranked among the top producers of precision measuring instruments such as micrometers.

His lifelong ambition was to propagate Buddhism. When the company began to make steady progress, he established the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai. All financial aspects of the foundation are managed by the company. It serves anyone interested in learning more about Buddhism.

Among the major activities of the foundation is the translation of "The Teaching of Buddha" into modern Japanese as well as into 29 other languages. To date, the

organisation has distributed 3 million copies in hotel rooms and hospitals as well as public facilities.

The Buddhist Canon project began with a special preparation committee formed in 1982. The committee included 13 members with Hanayama as chairman.

The committee has so far selected 139 works for the first series. The series will be about a tenth of the entire translation, according to Hanayama. All the volumes — at least 100 — of the first series are scheduled to be published in the next 14 years.

The Numata Centre for Buddhist Translation and Research was established in Berkeley, California in 1984. It has already gathered 70 Buddhist scholars in the West and East who are qualified translators of the Chinese Canon. They have agreed to translate various texts into English and are already completing some sections. — Asahi News Service, Tokyo.

Australian miners cry for relief

SYDNEY — Over four years, the Australian mining industry has doubled its asset base but seen its returns halved.

In a nutshell, that explains the glum mood blanketing many Australian mining companies, big and small. It was also the trigger for the recent call by the Australian Mining Industry Council (AMIC) for tax relief against foreign-exchange losses.

Badly, the AMIC states: "It is a glaring anomaly that while exporters pay tax on the gains from a devaluation in higher profit taxes, exchange-related losses are generally not deductible ... this tax liability must eventually flow into the cost of production."

In Canberra, the suggestion will probably sink like a lead balloon. Yet the industry's plight is real, nonetheless. It is remarkable that the continuing surge in Australian share prices has focussed keenly on industrial, energy, and investment stocks, while skirting mining warily.

Sir Bruce Watson, chairman of MIM Holdings, the big Queensland miner, said: "Poor profitability continues to impact heavily on investment in the industry. Expenditure on fixed assets in 1984-85, at AS1.8 billion (U.S. \$1.2 billion), was down 14 per cent from 1983-84. Exploration programmes represent the future for the industry, and they have fallen to disturbingly low levels."

"Exploration expenditure fell 11 per cent in 1984-85, to AS254 million, and the forecast for 1985-86 is for a further fall to AS218 million," he said.

Sir Roderick Carnegie, chairman of CRA, the Melbourne-based subsidiary of Rio Tinto-Zinc, said: "Those who rightly think of (last year's) depreciation of the Australian dollar as a correction to Australia's continued loss of competitiveness should not overlook the fact that many of our competitors in world markets, such as South Africa, Chile, Brazil, have also devalued their currencies significantly."

Australia's mining troubles are outlined in the latest ADCC-Goopers & Lybrand minerals industry survey, based on data from 121 respondents covering almost all Australia's minerals activity. Oil and gas is not included, so that good performing leaders like BHP and Santos do not show up in the figures.

Net profit return on average shareholders' funds rose from 4.4 per cent in 1983-84 to 5.7 per cent in 1984-85, but was still well below the average of 11.5 per cent for the nine-year life of the survey. The total net profits last year were AS640 million. But Sir Bruce said that 45 mining and exploration companies, plus nine smelting and refining companies, reported losses totalling AS472 million. Of these, 36 were producing companies with an aggregate loss of AS417 million.

Recently, Australian minerals production has been surging sales volumes, as maturing investment programmes launched during the resource-boom bubble of the late 1970s and early 1980s came on stream.

For example, in 1984-85, the production gains were: Aluminium, up 41 per cent; iron-ore up 31 per cent to 93 million tonnes, reflecting increased competitiveness in the Pilbara mines and improved demand for steel; manganese, up 31 per cent; gold, up 19 per cent to 32,000 kilograms; black coal, up 19 per cent to a record 101 million tonnes.

— Financial Times news feature.

— helping Australia become the world's largest coal exporter.

However, five years of low profits have bitten deeply into new investment programmes. The bulk of investment last year was in gold mining and plant upgrading; only seven per cent was directed to green field projects.

Except for Roxby Downs uranium-gold-copper project in South Australia, in which the partners are Western Mining and B.P. Australia, there are thought to be no large projects due for start-up (though this excludes the massive export phase of the north-west shelf natural gas venture off western Australia).

Forecast capital investment for 1985-86 is AS2.2 billion, yet the biggest single component of this estimate is the Portland aluminium smelter in Victoria, begun some years ago, then mothballed.

Despite some recovery in demand, real world metal prices remain depressed. Although 1985's sharp depreciation of the Australian dollar meant significant price improvements there were also significant costs. The AMIC says.

Sir Roderick said that AMIC respondents realised foreign-exchange losses on transactions in 1984-85 of AS317 million, against AS44 million previously. Unrealised losses at last June 30 were about AS1 billion.

Because of the large sums involved in mining projects and the smallness of Australia's capital market, the industry continually borrows offshore. At June 30, total overseas borrowings by AMIC respondents were AS8.9 billion.

This is much less than annual mining export earnings of over AS12 billion, whereas for Australia as a whole, total outstanding debt is almost double annual export earnings.

As well as asking that exchange losses be made tax deductible, Australian mining companies are pressing for reform on other fronts and so are the country's farmers, who have been even more viciously squeezed by low commodity prices, high domestic costs and rampant protectionism.

The mining companies seek a tougher stance on wages. They want foreign investment guidelines to be abandoned; a reduction in government charges, including abolition of fuel excises and the coal export duty; and further cuts in government expenditure.

The burden of government taxes and charges is the mining industry's most heartfelt complaint. Sir Bruce Watson said that over the past five years, mining industry payments to both federal and state governments have risen from AS1.8 billion to more than AS3 billion. This is 22 cents per dollar of revenue, against the 4.6 cents per dollar that shareholders get.

"The mining industry now has an investment totalling AS3.2 billion in the nation's infrastructure, including AS1.1 billion in items such as housing, community facilities, hospitals, schools, community roads, town power and water supply. Most of this infrastructure is normally provided by governments," Sir Bruce adds.

The picture is not all bleak. Despite four years of poor profits, Australian mining has spent billions on expanding capacity, and now has valuable, highly productive assets ready and waiting for the next decade and beyond.

Authorities crack down on 'Dubai's link'

By Philip Shehadi

Reuter

DUBAI — Authorities are cracking down on a key link in the chain of drug traffic to Europe — Dubai, a longtime smugglers' paradise in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

With sea and air connections to major European cities, Dubai is a thriving go-between in the drug trade from the poppy fields of the "Golden Crescent" of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan to Western consumers.

"Our problem is being so close to the main producing countries," says one of Dubai's drug squad, Lt.-Col. Abdul Aziz Mohammad Abdullah.

"We get hashish and heroin from Pakistan and India, hashish from Lebanon and Afghanistan, opium from Iran ... the quantities are increasing day by day."

Police surveillance is increasing too. And the UAE is imposing harsher penalties, including the death penalty for organised drug trafficking.

Last year, Dubai police seized a record 1.2 tonnes of narcotics, nearly all hashish, compared with 815 kilos in 1984 and just 43 kilos in 1982.

Already this year police have seized nearly three tonnes — 2.5 tonnes in a single haul of hashish earlier this month.

Abdul Aziz says 50 people were arrested last year on drug smuggling charges. Most were Pakistanis, but the number included eight UAE nationals.

Many of the smugglers are established traders using legitimate import businesses as cover. Others come from the ranks of immigrant labourers who crowd the city's souk (market) and ports.

Thirty hours by boat from Pak-

istan and eight hours from Iran, Dubai has for many years been a busy centre for re-exporting gold and consumer goods to Iran and the Indian sub-continent.

The free-enterprise tradition,

tax laws and cosmopolitan culture have made it a haven for smugglers.

These days, however, smuggling methods are changing. Once wooden dhow sailboats were the favourite form of transport. Now smugglers hide the drugs in modern container ships.

"In the UAE we import most of our needs," explains Col. Abdul Aziz. "We receive daily hundreds of trucks, big container ships. We have all nationalities setting up businesses. So it is not easy to control."

Dubai's biggest drug bust last year involved a tonne of hashish smuggled in a container full of Pakistani rice cartons. This year's 2.5-tonne haul also arrived by container, hidden by shoes and metal piping.

Dubai has also become a distribution point for hashish to the main Gulf market, Saudi Arabia. Half a tonne was found stuffed behind the refrigeration panels of a fruit truck last year in "Operation Ramadan," named after the Muslim holy month.

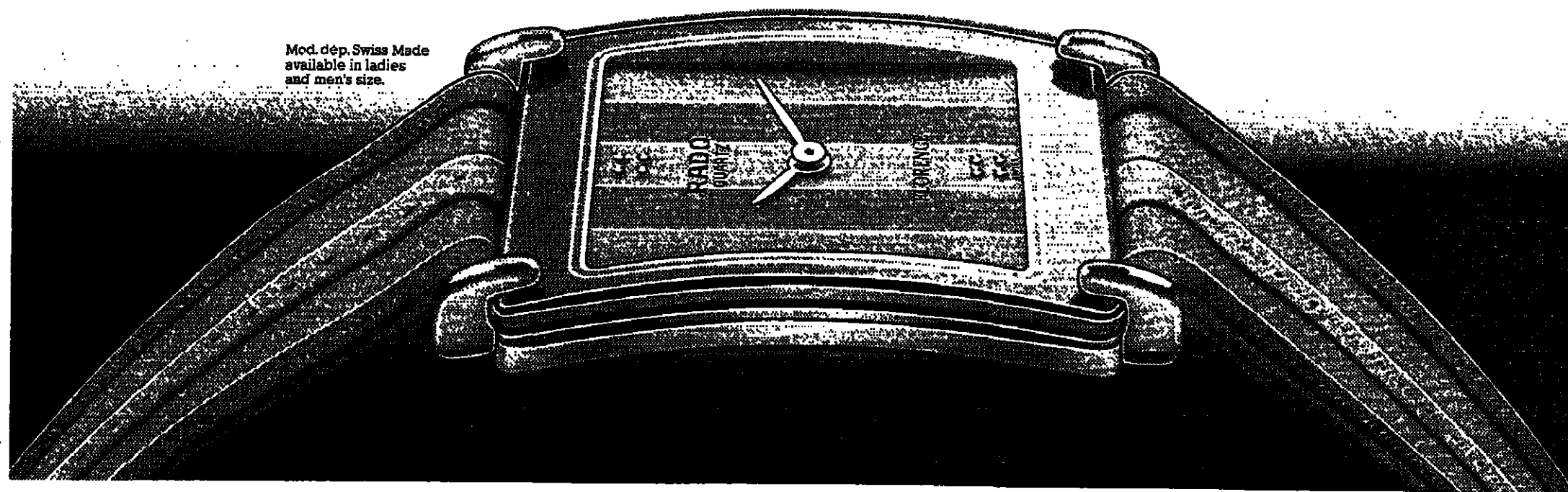
Dubai police will not reveal their anti-narcotics measures in detail, but say they are increasing staff and training, introducing modern detection equipment and stepping up cooperation with authorities abroad.

Officials are also fighting drug use in the UAE because some of the narcotics are leaking out on the way through.

Col. Abdul Aziz says less than a tenth of drugs entering the UAE stay behind, mostly hashish and opium.

The shape of excellence.

RADO Florence «Anatom»



Liverpool, Everton to battle for F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — Wembley Stadium will become the temporary capital of Merseyside on May 10 when Liverpool and Everton meet in the final of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup final for the first time ever.

In Saturday's semifinals, both of which went into extra time, Liverpool beat Southampton 2-0 at White Hart Lane, London, while Everton reached their third successive final by overcoming Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 at Villa Park, Birmingham.

Southampton fought a brave rearguard action against Liverpool but any chance they had disappeared 10 minutes from the interval when they lost England defender Mark Wright with a broken leg.

Their makeshift defence held out until the end of normal time but Liverpool, as they have done so often in the past, appeared to gain in strength in the extra 30-

minute period. Almost inevitably, it was Welsh striker Ian Rush who sent Liverpool to Wembley, scoring two typically opportunist goals in the 99th and 104th minutes.

Everton, F.A. Cup winners in 1984 and runners-up to Manchester United last season, suffered two injury blows before over-coming Sheffield Wednesday. First England striker Gary Lineker failed a pre-match fitness test then they lost World Cup midfielder Trevor Steven midway through the first half with a leg injury.

Utility player Alan Harper came on as substitute and he made an unexpected impact when he opened the scoring with a cheeky

lob four minutes into the second half.

Wednesday, however, are doubtful cup fighters and it took them a mere three minutes to get back on level terms through Carl Schutt, who has been one of the discoveries of the season.

But Everton's past cup experiences — they reached the 1984 and 1985 finals after extra-time semifinal victories — stood them in good stead.

With seven minutes of the extra period gone, Scotland World Cup striker Graeme Sharp, who had fluffed an easy chance in the 89th minute, scored a glorious goal to ensure an all-Merseyside final.

With Everton and Liverpool engaged on cup duty, Manchester United took the opportunity to close the gap on the two league leaders with a dogged 3-1 win at Coventry.

Midfielder Colin Gibson gave United a flying start in the 13th

minute and England captain Bryan Robson, playing with his right arm in a special harness to protect his suspect shoulder, added the second 15 minutes later.

But relegation-threatened Coventry refused to bow to the inevitable and a fighting second-half display saw Nicky Pickering score a consolation goal in the 51st minute before Gordon Strachan added a decisive third for United in the dying minutes.

The result took third-placed United within two points of the Liverpool duo, though they have played one game more than Everton.

Liverpool remain top on goal difference with 70 points from 36 games and are followed by Everton (70/35) and United (68/36).

Hearts continued their fairytale season north of the border when they reached the Scottish Cup final with a narrow but well-

deserved 1-0 victory over Dundee United at Hampden Park.

The Edinburgh Club, Premier League leaders, stayed within sight of the championship and cup double thanks to a 14th minute match-winning goal by winger John Colquhoun.

Aberdeen, Scottish Cup winners in 1982, 1983 and 1984, were comfortable 3-0 victors in the other semifinal against Hibernian at Dens Park, Dundee.

Billy Stark shot Aberdeen ahead in the 21st minute and John Hewitt, the man of the match, set up the second for young striker Eric Black in the 36th minute.

Although Aberdeen have not yet abandoned all hope of overhauling Hearts at the top of the league, they are well aware the cup remains a likelier prospect and they put the issue beyond doubt when substitute Joe Miller added the third eight minutes from time.

Paris Saint-Germain stumbles in French soccer title chase

PARIS (R) — Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) faltered in their charge for the French soccer league title when they were well beaten by struggling Strasbourg Friday night while rivals Nantes closed the gap to three points by beating Sochaux.

Strasbourg, who last October became the first team to take a point off PSG in Paris, were worth more than the 1-0 win that marked only the fourth defeat for the aristocrats from the capital in 34 league games.

Nantes, beaten UEFA Cup quarter-finalists, stepped up their challenge with an entertaining 3-2 home win over lowly Sochaux, moving to within three points of PSG with four matches to come.

Second half substitute Serge Gemmer netted Strasbourg's 65th minute goal with a sweetly-angled shot and with Francois Brisson in

devastating form on the left wing and the home team rampant in attack, PSG relied heavily on the brilliance of World Cup goalkeeper Joel Bats to limit the size of their defeat.

Nantes raced into a 2-0 lead over Sochaux through a fierce 16th minute shot by winger Loic Amisse and a fine solo effort by Argentine midfielder Jorge Buruchaga in the 27th minute on a run from the middle of the pitch.

Sochaux hit back through West German Uwe Krasse in the 35th minute and fellow-striker Stephane Paille just on the interval but Buruchaga capped an excellent performance with his second goal in the 48th minute which kept Nantes in the title hunt.

Third-placed Bordeaux, champions for the past two seasons but now six points behind PSG, weathered the absence of injured

internationals Alain Giresse, Patrick Battiston and Leonard Specht to score a 2-1 home victory over mid-table Laval.

Senegalese international Thierno Younousse gave Laval the lead in the seventh minute but West German international striker Uwe Reinders equalised in the 32nd and Denis Bourdoncle gave Bordeaux both points with a goal two minutes after the interval.

Fourth-placed Toulouse strengthened their claim for a UEFA Cup place next season with a 2-0 home win over rival contenders Auxerre.

West Tip romps to victory in English Grand National

LIVERPOOL, England (Agencies) — West Tip, almost killed in a road accident four years ago, won the English Grand National Saturday to give jockey Richard Dunwoody the thrill of a lifetime.

West Tip, making amends for a fall in the world's greatest steeplechase last year, ran out a two-length winner from the 66-1 outsider Young Driver with 22-1 shot classified trailing in 20 lengths behind in third. Hot favourite Mr. Saugfit was fourth.

Dunwoody, the youngest among the 40 riders in this awesome test of stamina and courage, said afterwards: "Maybe I hit the front a bit soon, but he jumped superbly. This is quite unbelievable."

West Tip, who fell at the fearsome Beecher's Brook in last year's race when leading, is lucky to be alive. He was hit by a lorry four years ago on a road outside the stable of trainer Michael Olli-

ver and still carries the scars. Oliver told reporters after Saturday's triumph: "I thought he was very close to being put down after receiving a horrible gash. He had to have 80 stitches."

"Everything went perfectly to plan today," said Oliver, sipping champagne after his 15-2 priced gelding had landed the £57,254 (\$83,590) first prize.

West Tip's business owner Peter Luff, who bought the horse on the recommendation of the trainer, confessed to reporters afterwards that he also had £1,000 (\$1,500) to win on the horse at 10-1.

But this bet was nothing compared to the giant wagers gambled by flamboyant city financier Terry Ramsden, who stood to win £1 million (\$1.5 million) if his horse, the hot favourite Mr. Saugfit, had obliged.

In an incident-packed race over

Aintree's exacting 30 fences, one of the first casualties was the hotly fancied Door Latch who was brought down at the very first fence by Port Askaig, originally to have been Dunwoody's ride in the race.

Another early casualty was the great Liverpool specialist and 1983 grand national winner Corbiere, who fell at the fourth.

Another fancied casualty was last year's winner Last Suspect who pulled up as the field swung into the second circuit because his chances looked forlorn by then.

Irish challenger Kilkilowen and Classified led over Beecher's second time round but they were always being tracked by the handily placed West Tip and rank outsider Young Driver.

Dunwoody who had a virtually trouble-free ride, did not hit the front until he cleared the last fence, coming up on the inside of Young Driver.

Bahrain reaches Sevens rugby plate competition

HONG KONG (R) — Bahrain went down 32-6 to the Wolfhounds in their second pool game at the Hong Kong Sevens tournament Saturday, but qualified for the plate competition.

Bahrain raised their game considerably after a poor first match against Thailand, which ended in a 4-4 draw.

Although never seriously threatening the dominant Irishmen, Bahrain covered well and tackled strongly, with a fine tackle by Richard Duck saving a certain try.

The Wolfhounds opened the scoring from the kick-off and stretched their lead to 20 points before Bahrain captain Mark Thomson found a gap and scored.

Bahrain managed better in the second half, conceding only two converted tries.

Their two tries to Thailand's one put them into the plate competition, in which they lost to Tonga in last year's final.

In Bahrain's first game, Tha-

land opened the scoring in the fourth minute of the second half when a handling error on the Bahrain line left the ball loose for an easy try.

But Bahrain struck back a minute later when Tim Murley collected a pass halfway into the Thai half and forced his way over in the corner.

It was a disappointing performance by Bahrain against a Thai side already beaten 36-0 by the Wolfhounds, with bad handling wasting several good chances.

Earlier Fiji led the slaughter of rugby union's minnows in the preliminary round.

Title-holders Australia were too big and powerful for the slight Malaysians in a crushing 38-6 win, wingers David Campese and Brendan Moon scoring two tries each and stand-off Michael Lynagh totalling up 12 points with a try and four conversions.

Indian wins in King's Cup boxing tourney

BANGKOK (R) — Sira Jayram gave India a solitary semifinal place in the 12th King's Cup amateur boxing tournament Saturday with an unanimous points decision over Kenya's Chris Kariuki in the light-welterweight division.

Jayram scored heavily against Kariuki who took the fight to the Indian but kept throwing inaccurate punches.

In Sunday's semifinals, Jayram will fight Orzube Nazarov of the Soviet Union, a hard-hitting southpaw who beat Australian David Cleancie on points.

Earlier Saturday, flyweight Park Sang Chul displayed speed and skill in a top-sided quarter-final victory over Thailand's Somboun Kansuk. He will meet hard-hitting Kenyan Daniel Mwangi in the semifinals.

Britain helps Mexico in World Cup security

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — Britain has given Mexican authorities a black list of hoodlums trouble-makers and is cooperating in special security measures to deal with any unruly British soccer fans at the World Cup, Mexican officials said Friday.

"We know what happened before, a tragedy," said Hernan Garza of the "Mexico 86" organising committee, referring to last May's Liverpool-Juventus European Cup final in Brussels, when 39 people died in rioting sparked mostly by British fans.

"If they come to Monterrey, we will control them," he told a news conference in Houston. He did not specify what measures would be used in Monterrey, where England plays its first round games against Portugal, Morocco and Poland in June.

However, Sergio Marcos

Tueme, director of tourism for the state of Nuevo Leon, said security precautions are being taken throughout Mexico in cooperation with the British government.

London has provided a list of persons who might be expected to "provoke problems," Marcos said, without giving details. Two other British teams, Scotland and Northern Ireland, are among 24 national teams taking part in the competition.

At the 1982 World Cup in Spain, hundreds of British fans were arrested, mostly for drunkenness and rowdiness, but it is not known if so many youngsters will travel to Mexico.

Garza and Marcos were in Texas to encourage visitors to go to Mexico for the games. They are visiting Britain and other European countries this week.

Moore, Drayton preserve middleweight boxing titles

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Davey Moore and Buster Drayton preserved their June 4 world junior middleweight title bout by winning separate fights Friday night.

The 26-year-old Moore, ranked no. 1, and second-ranked Drayton will seek the vacant International Boxing Federation title. Moore stopped Victor Claudio of Puerto Rico in the second round and the 32-year-old Drayton halted Sammy Leonard after four rounds in scheduled 10-round bouts.

Moore, 15-2 with 12 knockouts, floored the 22-year-old Claudio with a looping right early in the second round. He dropped Claudio, 8-2 with five knockouts, again with a left hook, prompting referee Joe Cortez to stop the fight 1:42 into the round.

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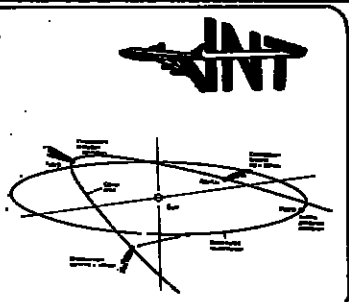
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Japan to make 'careful decision' on participation in SDI research

TOKYO (AP) — Japan will make a "careful decision" on whether to join the United States in "Star Wars" research, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone told U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger on Saturday.

Mr. Weinberger said after the meeting that the combination of U.S. and Japanese technologies could be one of the most "promising" deterrents to the Soviet military buildup.

Speaking in an address to the Japan National Press Club, he did not, however, make detailed comments on Japan's possible participation in research on the space-based missile defence system.

"We think there is great technological genius in Japan and we invite countries including Japan to participate in any way they decide would be best for them," Mr. Weinberger said.

Mr. Nakasone thanked Mr. Weinberger for welcoming a Japanese technical group that is visiting the United States to study the matter, said a Foreign Ministry official who attended the meeting

between the two men and briefed reporters.

Japan has been expected to decide within a month whether to enter joint government and private-company research into "Star Wars."

But an American official, speaking on condition of not being identified further, said the Japanese "have not sent any real signals on when or what the decision would be."

The Foreign Ministry official, who spoke on condition his name not be used, said Mr. Nakasone told Mr. Weinberger that Japan would make a "careful decision" on whether to participate.

According to the Foreign Ministry official, Mr. Weinberger also told Mr. Nakasone that the United States would support an agreement with the Soviet Union for drastic cuts in nuclear arms, but

emphasised that such an agreement should be verifiable.

In his press club address, Mr. Weinberger praised Japan for its economic accomplishments. He said that by contrast, the Soviets have tried to make up for their economic failings by increasing their military might.

"Why else would they have recently deployed atomic cannons in Sakhalin?" Mr. Weinberger asked. "And what defensive purposes can there be in the Soviet deployment of SS-20s east of the Urals?"

A U.S. Defence Department official said several cannons capable of firing nuclear warheads as far as 28.5 kilometres were first observed in Sakhalin, 40 kilometres from the tip of Hokkaido in October 1985.

The official, speaking on condition of not being identified further, said the cannons could be used against ships or against Japanese territory.

Mr. Weinberger also said the Soviets have fortified islands north of Japan that they occupied after World War II with "a coastal defence division and with nuclear capable missiles" since the 1980s.

The Pentagon official said Mr. Weinberger was referring to surface-to-surface intermediate range tactical missiles with a 300-kilometre range, enough to hit targets on much of Hokkaido.

In another meeting, Mr. Weinberger told Defence Agency chief Koichi Kato that the Soviet Union has continued to build up its military strength in the Far East for 23 years, contributing to increased tension in the region.

Agency spokesman Ken Hibino said that in response, Mr. Kato reiterated Japan's long-standing view that reduction in intermediate-range nuclear forces should be accomplished globally rather than only in the European theatre.

Mr. Weinberger arrived in Japan Thursday from a visit to South Korea. He is to fly to Manila on Sunday, where he will be the first U.S. cabinet-level official to meet new Philippine President Corason Aquino.

Police re-enact Palme killing at murder scene

STOCKHOLM (R) — Police Saturday re-enacted the Feb. 28 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme and a newspaper said it showed that more people than previously thought had witnessed the killing.

The evening paper Aftonbladet published pictures showing plainclothes police posing as the prime minister and his wife Lisbet — who was slightly wounded in the attack — while a third detective, wearing a blue armband, played the unidentified gunman.

Police officials confirmed that the staging took place at the Sveavagen thoroughfare in central Stockholm.

Aftonbladet said several blocks around the murder site were cordoned off while 10 witnesses described their observations.

The fact that so many people witnessed the killing has not been made public before.

Stockholm Police Commissioner Hans Holmer Friday said the 300 investigators working on the case — Sweden's first political assassination in modern times — were "halfway through a huge puzzle" but refused to elaborate.

Police appear to have made little progress in the hunt since a 33-year-old man, who was previously charged as an accomplice, was released last month after a witness failed to identify him.

Investigators have mounted a thorough but so far fruitless search for the Smith and Wesson .357 Magnum revolver used in the murder.

Sikh gunmen kill six policemen in Punjab

NEW DELHI, India (Agencies) — Sikh extremists shot dead six policemen at a courthouse in Punjab state Saturday and freed three prisoners accused of slaying a Hindu editor, authorities said.

Four people, including a lawyer, were wounded in the attack at the district court in Jullundur, a major industrial city in central Punjab. District Magistrate S.C. Aggarwal said.

At least three attackers opened fire with automatic weapons as police were leading four Sikh prisoners into the courtroom at about 11 a.m. (0530 GMT), Mr. Aggarwal said in a telephone interview.

He said the extremists parked a blue, police-style jeep across from the courthouse and fired over the 1.3-metre compound wall.

They escaped in the jeep, and possibly another vehicle, with three of the prisoners and three rifles taken from the slain policemen, Aggarwal said. It was not clear how the fourth prisoner remained in custody.

"A search is going on but so far there has been no sign of the jeep," Mr. Aggarwal said. "The next step is to raid some hideouts of extremists in the area."

He said the Sikh prisoners were on trial for the slaying of Ramesh Chander, a leading Hindu newspaper editor in Jullundur in May 1984. Chander's father, Lala Jagat Narain, was killed by Sikh terrorists in 1981.

It was the bloodiest attack in Punjab since March 29 when Sikh gunmen rampaged through several villages, killing 12 people and injuring 20, and spurring the government to launch a major crackdown on extremists fighting for an independent Sikh nation.

The killers struck just after authorities partially lifted a curfew slapped on Jullundur three weeks ago following clashes between Sikhs and Hindus enraged by assassinations of members of their

minority community in Punjab. Six people were killed Friday night in Punjab in attacks by Sikh extremists which broke a fragile four-day lull in the violence rocking the state.

Police sources said 8,000 para-military policemen were combing wide areas of the state for extremists and had seized 13 suspects and quantities of arms.

The killings, in three attacks on unarmed civilians, were the worst outbreak of violence in Punjab since 36 people were killed during the weekend of March 30 and authorities announced tough measures to crack down on extremists.

In the first attack, three Hindus were killed and four injured in Khanna town, Punjab's main grain market, when two men walked into a crowded bazaar and opened fire with sub-machine guns.

Press reports said angry crowds of Hindus later gathered at police headquarters shouting insults at police for failing to protect them.

A curfew was slapped on Khanna, but police reported a rare success when a police officer who was driving past gave chase and seized one of two suspects fleeing on motor scooters.

The officer was the police chief of Ludhiana, Punjab's biggest industrial city, where Sikh extremists killed 14 people, mostly Hindus, last week in one of their bloodiest massacres.

About 105 people were killed in Punjab last month in bloodshed sparked by extremists fighting for an independent Sikh nation.

Two more people were killed Friday night and two were injured in a random attack in the village of Suthana, police said, and a liquor vendor was shot dead in the village of Atari, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

A person killed in a clash between two militant Sikh groups brought Friday night's Punjab death toll to seven, police said.

Salvadoran kidnap ring arrested

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Salvadoran authorities have detained an army officer and several civilians for their suspected participation in a major kidnapping ring, a police communiqué said.

A source familiar with the investigation said police had made arrests in their attempts to break a multimillion-dollar kidnapping ring that involved some "fairly high-ranking officers" of the Salvadoran army as well as several prominent civilians.

Some of the kidnappings had been falsely attributed to left-wing guerrillas, according to the source, who declined to be identified.

The police communiqué, issued Friday night, said Rodolfo Isidro

Lopez Sibrian, an army lieutenant, had been arrested as a suspect in the abduction ring.

Sibrian had earlier been accused of masterminding the 1981 killings of two U.S. agricultural advisers and the head of the Salvadoran Land Reform Institute at the Sheraton Hotel in San Salvador. He was acquitted on a legal technicality.

Police are still seeking two other army lieutenants, Carlos Zacapa and Antonio Cornejo Arango, who are suspected of participating in the kidnapping ring, the communiqué said.

Although the communiqué did not specify how many had been arrested, it said 10 suspects had

already been released.

The source said the gang carried out five or six kidnappings in the last two years and at least one involved a ransom demand of \$3 million.

The source said a number of officers were still under investigation and that more arrests were expected within the next week.

The only publicly reported arrest linked to the kidnappings occurred last Monday when police wearing black hoods staged what was meant to appear as an abduction of Luis Orlando Llovera Ballete, 43, a prominent agricultural businessman and a member of ARENA, police sources told Reuters.

S. African death toll rises to 6 in 24 hours

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least six people have died in anti-government violence in South Africa in the past 24 hours, the sixth in a clash with security forces.

Reporting overnight violence near Johannesburg, Durban and around the vast Cape province, police said a man died when a crowd attacked a private home at Tembisa, north of Johannesburg. Another man was wounded and arrested in a similar attack in the township.

A white policeman was slightly hurt when a crowd stoned a patrol in Claremont, near Durban, and government buildings were attacked in townships around the Cape.

Police said five black people died Friday in the violence that has claimed 1,400 lives in 26 months.

One was stoned to death and two others died of burns after they were attacked by a crowd in Kayamazane, eastern Transvaal, one of the latest flash-points of conflict.

Two other people were found burned to death — a man in Johannesburg's black satellite city of Soweto and a woman at Langa, in the eastern Cape.

Black-against-black violence has become a marked feature of the latest cycle of protest in South Africa. Radicals attack black policemen, officials, suspected informers and others they regard as "sellouts" to the apartheid system.

Right-wing black vigilante groups have begun retaliating by attacking people linked to radical anti-apartheid groups.

On Friday night, police reported two other deaths that they did not link with the unrest — a diplomat from one of the 10 tribal homelands set up under apartheid and an unidentified woman.

Their bodies were found lying by a road near Alwal North.

Benazir Bhutto reportedly met Karmal

MOSCOW (R) — Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto is believed to have conferred in Moscow this week with Afghan President Babrak Karmal, diplomatic sources said Saturday.

Ms. Bhutto paid a lightning visit to the Soviet capital from March 31 to April 1, coinciding with a trip by Karmal that Kabul Radio described as "an unofficial short visit."

Neither Ms. Bhutto nor the

Afghan embassy would confirm the meeting had taken place but the diplomatic sources said they had been told it covered the Afghan war in which Muslim rebels are fighting Soviet troops and Afghan government forces.

The sources said the talks were intended to precede a visit to Washington by United Nations mediator Diego Cordovez, who presented the State Department Friday with a proposed timetable for

the withdrawal of the Soviet troops.

Ms. Bhutto has also recently visited the United States and Saudi Arabia, both supporters of the rebels.

Diplomats said the Soviet Union regarded Ms. Bhutto as a prominent figure who could one day lead or influence a Pakistani government more flexible over the Afghan war than the present administration of President Zia Ul Haq.

Managua: U.S. blocking Contadora peace efforts

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — Nicaragua's Foreign Minister has accused the United States of blocking efforts by the Contadora group to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflicts in Central America.

The Contadora Group is sponsoring a weekend meeting of 13 Latin American nations to discuss ways of ending the strife in the region.

On arrival here Friday, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said: "They (the U.S.) have tried to destroy the possibility of any diplomatic, negotiated solution."

The meeting brings together foreign ministers of the Contadora Group formed by Mexico, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela, its support group formed by Argentina, Peru, Uruguay and Brazil, and the five Central American countries.

The meeting comes amid a campaign by President Reagan to win approval for \$70 million in other assistance for rebels fighting Managua. The Senate has approved the plan. The House of Representatives rejected it but votes again this month.

Mr. D'Escoto said U.S. congressional approval of Mr. Reagan's plan would give backing to "terrorist actions in complete disregard of the most elementary norms of civilised behaviour."

He said the aid proposal also went against Contadora efforts, which since beginning its peace bid in January, 1983, has advocated an end to outside support

for rebel forces.

Several U.S. congressmen visiting Venezuela on Thursday made it clear the house could approve the plan next time if the Panama meeting is not seen as making solid progress.

If Congress clears the new aid, many regional politicians and diplomats fear it would lead to stepped-up armed conflict in Nicaragua and on the Honduran border.

Western diplomats said they believed an apparent incursion by Nicaraguan troops into Honduras last month which the United States described as an invasion, would bolster support for the package among congressmen who had voted against it.

Mr. D'Escoto dismissed U.S. charges that Nicaragua has acted as an aggressor and described the cross-border strike on the U.S.-backed rebel bases as a defensive measure.

The United States accuses the Sandinista government of posing a threat to their neighbours and seeking to export revolution in Central America.

Meanwhile, thousands of Miskito Indians have fled Nicaragua for refugee camps in Honduras to escape fighting between Sandinista troops and Indian guerrillas, a U.N. official said Friday.

About 2,400 refugees have arrived and 2,000 more are expected. Luisa Druke-Boleski told reporters. She is with the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa.

Chinese leaders urge modernisation

PEKING (R) — China Saturday honoured the 10th anniversary of a riot that preceded the fall of the Maoists with a formal ceremony and calls to citizens to devote their energies to modernising the nation.

In Peking's Tiananmen Square, where a decade ago militiamen fought people demonstrating against Maoism and its leaders in the so-called Gang of Four, school children laid wreaths at the monument to the revolutionary martyrs.

Busloads of children stood near the monument to chant slogans promising to work hard in honour of the martyrs, as about 400 spectators watched from behind a line of plain clothes police.

The crowd was lost in the vast expanse of Tiananmen Square, still overlooked by a huge portrait of the late Mao Tseung. His embalmed body lies on public view in a mausoleum there despite official discrediting of some of his policies.

The wreath-laying followed speeches at a public rally Friday, a spate of respectful editorials in the press and a statement by Vice-Premier Li Peng. The theme of all of them was that 1976-style protests were no longer necessary and that energies should now be channelled into building the economy.

The People's Daily in an editorial said the Tiananmen incident was "the first spring thunder" to indicate the end of the 10-year turmoil of the Cultural Revolution.

It said many who formed the backbone of China's modernisation drive had taken part as youths in the 1976 protest. It added that the situation now was fundamentally different, although fierce struggle continued between Communist ideals and corruption by post-war governments to have committed war crimes. The U.N. agreed to the request.

It was the first move by a government — only governments may have access to the files — to examine material about Dr. Waldheim's war career, following reports that he allegedly served in the Balkans in a unit that carried out atrocities.

Mr. Netanyahu told reporters: "Some of the material that has come out warrants further examination. I wouldn't say that anything that has come out so far can be used as substantiation for the more serious charges."

(But) it is fairly clear that Dr. Waldheim was not fully candid about the past," he added.

Dr. Waldheim has repeatedly denied wrongdoing and said in an American television interview Friday before the Israeli request was known that if any government wished to see his file, "it's fine with me. I have nothing to hide."

Dr. Waldheim, aged 67, was secretary general from 1972 until the end of 1981 and now is running for president of Austria.

Dr. Waldheim has called the clamour over his past "a defamation campaign" that started in his native land and then rolled on.

"The only thing which is true is that I was indeed in the German army," he said in the television interview.

Until new accounts surfaced, the U.N. community accepted his assertion that after being wounded on the eastern front in 1941 he spent the rest of World War II as a law student.

Now material uncovered by the World Jewish Congress and other sources has placed him in Yugoslavia in that period. He says he was there as an interpreter. But according to the accounts, he headed an intelligence unit that interrogated civilian and military prisoners.

Virendra Dayal, an aide to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who is away in Latin America, said in a letter to the Israeli delegate Friday night that the Waldheim file must be handled "on the same basis of confidentiality as any other material being used in a criminal investigation."

John Scott, a Briton in the U.N. legal office, was designated to arrange the Israeli's scrutiny of the data, which are kept in vaults a little more than a kilometre away

War file on Waldheim to be opened for scrutiny

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A U.N. war crimes commission file on former U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who served in Hitler's army, will be opened for scrutiny within the next few days.

It was announced here that the file, requested by the government of Israel, must be kept confidential, the United Nations said.

Israeli Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu asked Friday for permission to see the file, one of 40,000 believed kept by the United Nations on people alleged by post-war governments to have committed war crimes. The U.N. agreed to the request.

It was the first move by a government — only governments may have access to the files — to examine material about Dr. Waldheim's war career, following reports that he allegedly served in the Balkans in a unit that carried out atrocities.

Mr. Netanyahu told reporters: "Some of the material that has come out warrants further examination. I wouldn't say that anything that has come out so far can be used as substantiation for the more serious charges."

(But) it is fairly clear that Dr. Waldheim was not fully candid about the past," he added.

Dr. Waldheim has repeatedly denied wrongdoing and said in an American television interview Friday before the Israeli request was known that if any government wished to see his file, "it's fine

with me. I have nothing to hide."

Dr. Waldheim, aged 67, was secretary general from 1972 until the end of 1981 and now is running for president of Austria.

Dr. Waldheim has called the clamour over his past "a defamation campaign" that started in his native land and then rolled on.

"The only thing which is true is that I was indeed in the German army," he said in the television interview.

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from U.N. headquarters.

The World Jewish Congress has said that it has 20 researchers seeking other information about Dr. Waldheim in London, New York, Washington and West Germany.

The War Crimes Commission, based originally in London, disbanded in 1948.

Dr. Waldheim said: "Of course every government has the right to inspect these documents."

He said suggestions that have been made in the U.S. that he stopped some people looking at the file when he was U.N. secretary-general in 1980 were "completely false."

He said the best proof that nothing existed against him in the U.N. files was the fact that in 1948 — when the U.N. war crimes list was assembled, nothing was undertaken against him and the file was shelved.

He said none of the documents that have appeared in New York, Austria and Yugoslavia in the last month relating to his service with the German army in the Balkans proved he had any link with war crimes. He was confident he would be exonerated.

Dr. Waldheim, who is supported by the opposition People's Party (OVP), was scheduled to meet supporters in Linz again before touring the lower Austria province on Sunday and returning to Vienna on Monday.

Since the revelations began a month ago his standing in polls for the May 4 presidential election

has been boosted as his countrymen react to what they see as foreign interference. His main rival is Kurt Steyrer of the ruling Socialist Party.

The World Jewish Congress (WJC) in New York has played a major role in bringing documents to light, but Dr. Waldheim said the origin of the "sneak campaign" against him was in Austria, where his opponents wished to halt his bid for the presidency.

He said he had known nothing of Greek Jews being deported to death camps, a great tragedy which he condemns.

"I bear the awfulness of this war on my own body," he added, referring to wounds received on the Russian front in 1941. "I was a victim."

In an interview with Reuters he said he had accepted invitations to join activities of a Nazi riding corps and a Nazi student organisation at Vienna's Consular Academy in 1938 in order to ease the way to completing his law studies.

Dr. Waldheim said his family was known as anti-Nazi when Hitler annexed Austria in 1938 and he had been attacked by members of the Nazi Brownshirt Organisation.

The former Austrian and U.N. diplomat has several times hinted he might take legal action to stop what he calls slanders against him.

"If it goes on I will know how to defend myself," he said in a recent interview.



Elephant tramples poacher to death

VOI, Kenya (R) — A wounded elephant trampled to death a poacher who had fired a poisoned arrow into it in Tsavo, Kenya's largest game park, last week, the official Kenya News Agency has reported. Three other poachers, who managed to escape the enraged elephant, were caught by police, the agency said.

Elephants on rampage kill 15 villagers

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A herd of 60 elephants went on a rampage and killed at least 15 new villagers at a resettlement village in southern Sumatra province, a newspaper reported Saturday. The newspaper Bisnis Indonesia said a villager reported the rampage to Governor Yasir Hadibrototo, saying the elephants moved out from a preserve forest. The villager said the elephants killed at least 15 new settlers and destroyed crops and houses at the Masuji Resettlement Centre, 400 kilometres north east of Jakarta. Pangeran Napinulu, head of the Lampung Forestry Office in southern Sumatra, said at least \$90,000 were needed to finance sending those animals back to the nearby preserve of the Sambat Forest.

Museum director sent to labour camp for stealing ikons

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet museum director who stole valuable ikons using a secret exit from an old Russian cathedral has been sentenced to 11 years in a labour camp, an official newspaper reported Saturday. The daily Sovetskaya Rossiya said the director, named only as V. Shevelov, had concealed the ikons and other items in rubbish dumps, woodpiles and large snowdrifts as well as in his own home. Shevelov discovered the secret exit after he was chosen to administer the cathedral in the ancient town of Karagol 650 kilometres north of Moscow. The ikons which he stole were valued at more than 40,000 roubles (dollars) and included one depicting Saint George and the dragon, the newspaper said. It said Shevelov had been sentenced to 11 years in a strict-regime camp — the harshest penalty under Soviet law short of the death sentence.

Imelda's 3,000 pairs of shoes 'were routine'

WASHINGTON (R) — Ousted Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos has brushed off his wife Imelda's famed collection of 3,000 pairs of shoes, seen by his critics as a symbol of his excesses, as "a routine requirement for a long-term first lady." "Well, she buys all kinds of shoes. She has probably to change shoes twice a day (as first lady). ... There are parties where she can wear high heels, there are parties where she has to wear low heels," Marcos said in what was billed as his first television interview since he fled the Philippines on Feb. 25. "But Mr. President, 3,000 pairs of shoes, hundreds and hundreds of shoes," the interviewer interjected. "Twenty years" Marcos countered. "These are collections for 20 years."

Old India-to China road discovered

PEKING (R) — Archaeologists claim to have traced the route of an ancient road linking the Tang Dynasty capital of Xian in central China with Tibet, Nepal and India, according to the Qinghai daily newspaper. It said the so-called Tangbo Road was opened by Songtan Gambo, a Tibetan king who it said unified Tibet in the year 634 AD. The newspaper said the Tangbo Road, which snaked through China's Qinghai and Gansu provinces, was as important as the Silk Road, linking ancient China with Asia Minor and Europe. Songtan Gambo sent envoys to Xian in 634 AD, and that it was from Tibet that information about India, Nepal and other South Asian countries arrived in China during the Tang Dynasty (618 to 907 AD). The article said the road later fell into disuse, but the route was identified by 13 Chinese archaeologists and photographers who studied relics on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and archive material.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHAHAF
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